NMC recognizes outstanding employees. PAGE 2
Deleon Guerrero nominated to MVA board, Manglona to NMTI board. PAGE 4

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 177

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Five named as TOY finalists

Indalecio

Mendiola

Pobeda

Nishida

Olopai

The Public School System announced yesterday the Top 5 finalists for the 2024 Teacher of the Year.

The five finalists are Roque Castro Indalecio of Marianas High School, Francis Mendiola of Koblerville Elementary School, Maria Pobeda of Sinapalo Elementary School, Maria Victoria Nishida of Hopwood Middle School, and Sonya-Jane Olopai of Da'ok Academy.

Interim Education commissioner Donna M. Flores said this year's finalists represent a highly competitive and experienced group of educators

See FIVE on Page 4

Airport parking rates increase

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has adopted multiple cuts and increases which will take effect this coming fiscal year. One of the most recent increases is an increase in the current parking fee at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport parking lot.

See AIRPORT on Page 4

LAKE JKPL

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Heavy rains all throughout last Friday made areas such as this one at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe flooded. The bad weather came despite assurances from National Weather Service in Guam that heavy rainfall was less likely through last weekend.

Ogo

House panel supports Senate bill seeking to expand MVA's duties

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives Commerce and Tourism Committee supports a Senate bill that seeks to expand the Marianas Visitors Authority's duties in order for MVA to qualify for available grants without permanently shifting authorities and duties from agencies already tasked with the same.

According to the committee in its report submitted recent-

See HOUSE on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

24

'Gov't retirees should get bonus again'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Noting that the last time government retirees received a bonus was five years ago, Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) has underscored the need for the administration to provide a retiree bonus or Cost of Living Allowance to be distributed equally to all government retirees and CNMI Fund members receiving an annuity upon resolution of the CNMI's financial crisis.

See GOV'T on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
The CNMI's first commercial electric vehicle charging station will be accessible to all EV green drivers on Saipan starting tomorrow.
PAGE 13

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
Our devotion to creating inviting spaces knows no bounds, extending even to the ambiance that dances in the air.
PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
Steve Harwell, the longtime frontman of the Grammy-nominated pop rock band Smash Mouth, has died.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

NMC recognizes outstanding employees

PHOTOS BY NMC

Interim Information Technology director and Employee of the Year Jerome Ortiz, center, with NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, left, and NMC vice president for Administration and Advancement Frankie Eliptico, right.

Renedel Buno, Staff of the Year and Database administrator, center, with NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Jerome Ortiz, interim Information Technology director and Employee of the Year, and Frankie Eliptico, NMC vice president for Administration and Advancement.

Northern Marianas College recently recognized hard-working and dedicated employees by naming the recipients of the 2023 Annual PROA Employee Awards. The awards recognize employees' outstanding performance, contribution to NMC, and their commitment to student learning.

Selection of the awards were made by a committee composed of staff and faculty. The awards were presented during the government agency wide Labor Day picnic held at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Jerome Ortiz, the interim Information Technology director for the college, is the overall employee of the year.

"I am truly humbled to be named the Employee of the Year," Ortiz said. "This incredible achievement wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering support of my fellow IT colleagues. Together, we've pioneered innovation, championed digital transformation, and fueled the engine of information technology."

Database administrator Renedel Buno won the "Staff of the Year" award, and credits his success due to his team at the Information Technology department and the Office of Institutional Advancement.

"The collective always outweighs the individual, no matter what," Buno said. "I'm truly honored to have been named the 2023 Staff of the Year, yet I recognize that my accomplishments are meaningful only because of the support and trust I receive from my colleagues and the college. While the award is meaningful, I take greater pride in the knowledge that our work has a positive effect on the college and, on a larger scale, contributes to the advancement of the community."

Patricia Coleman, the interim dean for NMC's Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services, won the "Supervisor of the Year" award.

"Congratulations to all of the NMC awardees," Coleman said. "It's a blessing to work with such a great team composed of so many individuals who are dedicated and passionate about higher education and enhancing our community. "

Dr. Beylul Solomon, a professor with NMC's School of Education, was awarded as the college's Faculty of the Year.

"I am so deeply humbled and grateful to have been selected as Faculty of the Year by my peers and colleagues!" Solomon said. "I am honored to be included in such a talented and dedicated group of educators who are equally deserving of this award. Thank you for the recognition. I don't take this honor lightly."

Recognized as the Non-Instructional Faculty of the Year was William Hunter, the college's Distance Learning Education coordinator.

"I am extremely humbled and grateful to have been recognized as Non-Instructional Faculty of the year. I continue to be motivated by the dedication and hard work of our entire NMC team," said Hunter.

He also expresses his drive stemming from his desire to continue improving the learning environment for the students of NMC, along with knowing that his work has a positive impact on the lives of students.

"I am also very grateful to my family for their continuous support," Hunter added. "Additionally, I am thankful for Dr. G and our entire NMC Leadership Team, including our Board of Regents for all their hard work, dedication, and support."

Awarded as Counselor of the Year was Dawn Margaret Sarmiento, who is a counselor with NMC's Disability Sup-

See NMC on Next Page

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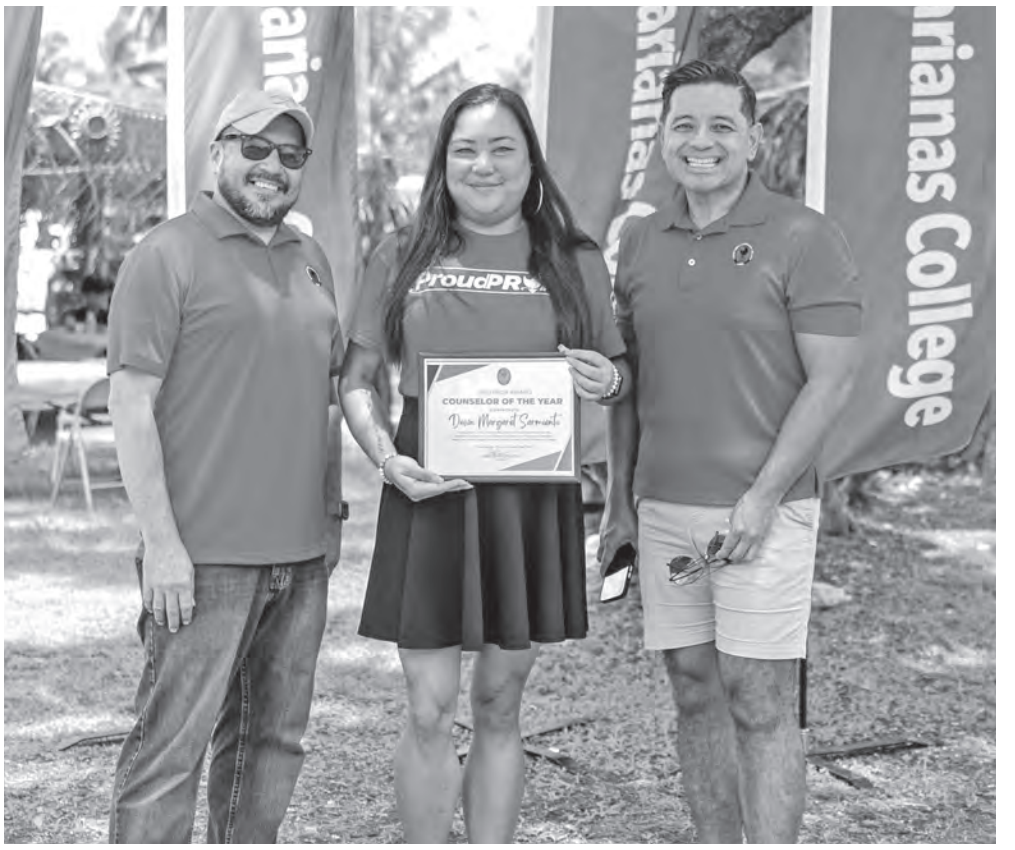
Interim dean for NMC's Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services Patricia Coleman, center, with NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, left, and NMC vice president for Administration and Advancement Frankie Eliptico, right.

Faculty of the Year, Dr. Beylul Solomon, with her son Yosef William Fife IV, NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, interim dean for Academic Programs and Services Lorraine Maui, and NMC vice president for Administration and Advancement Frankie Eliptico.

Non-instructional Faculty of the Year and Distance Learning Education coordinator William Hunter with NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, interim dean for Academic Programs and Services Lorraine Maui, and NMC vice president for Administration and Advancement Frankie Eliptico.



Counselor of the Year and Disability Support Services counselor Dawn Margaret Sarmiento, center, with NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, left, and NMC vice president for Administration and Advancement Frankie Eliptico, right.

NMC

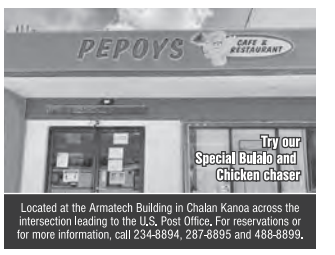
From page 2

port Services.

"I am grateful, humbled, and honored for being nominated and named Counselor of the Year," Sarmiento said.

Five years ago, Sarmiento was named Student of the Year as a Rehabilitation & Human Services student at NMC. She shares how this feat is a display of how impactful the College is in mentoring students into becoming professionals.

Sarmiento added, "I am also thankful and blessed for my fellow Counselors and the entire Learning Support Services and Student Support Services Team as we continue to be each other's support system to provide the services we give to our students and our campus community." ***(PR)***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New Dolphin Market, San Jose from 1:00PM - 4:30PM
SEPT 6 15
Women's Health Check
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Deleon Guerrero nominated to MVA board, Manglona to NMTI board

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has nominated songwriter and singer Marvin Deleon Guerrero to serve on the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors and Rota high school teacher Chanelle A. Manglona to serve as a member of the Board of Trustee for the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

If confirmed by the Senate, Deleon Guerrero will serve a four-year term in the MVA board, representing Saipan.

If confirmed by the Senate, Manglona will serve the remaining term of Ana Maria S. Mendiola in the NMTI Board of Trustees representing Rota, which will expire on March 11, 2024.

Palacios informed Senate President E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) last week that he and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang are confident that Marvin Deleon Guerrero is qualified and will be an asset to the MVA board.

Palacios said they are confident that Marvin Deleon Guerrero will devote time and efforts to fostering a sustainable tourism industry.

Marvin Deleon Guerrero is currently the manager of Bank Pacific on Saipan.

With respect to Manglona's appointment, the governor and Apatang expressed confidence in her ability to diligently serve on the NMTI board and contribute to NMTI's growth as a provider of advanced career, trades, and technical training throughout the Commonwealth.

FIVE

From page 1

who excel in their respective classrooms.

"As we all know, every year our school district conducts the Teacher of the Year selection in a very competitive process. We are as excited as our PSS community because this goes to show that we have hardworking, committed, and excellent classroom teachers who continue to give their best to our students, our parents and family," Flores said in a statement.

The 20 public elementary, middle, and high schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota each sent their respective nominees to the state-level competition.

The CNMI-wide winner (state-level) will qualify for the national competition. This is held every December in the nation's capital.

This is the second year that the winner is announced early—no later than the first week of October. This will allow for the CNMI winner to submit timely the requirements for the 2024 National Teacher of the Year competition.

The five finalists were chosen by a panel coming from various sectors in the community.

Roque Castro Indalecio

MHS classroom teacher Dr. Roque Castro Indalecio is an educator "who imparts his expertise across all high school grade levels (9th-12th), specializing in the subjects of chemistry and environmental science."

Roque's passion for teaching is highlighted by a rich educational background.

He has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the Northern Marianas College.

Building upon this foundation, he pursued a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University, which expanded his repertoire of effective teaching methodologies. Demonstrating his dedication to educational advancement, Indalecio earned his Doctor of Education in Educational Technology from Walden University, which is "a testament to his commitment to integrating innovative technology into the learning experience of his students," adds the PSS release.

Throughout his career, Indalecio has earned recognition for his outstanding contributions to education: He was honored as a 21st Century Teacher for the high school level, acknowledging his forward-thinking approach to education, and, for his remarkable he was named as Teacher of the Year during his time at the middle school level in 2015.

Indalecio's "pedagogical philosophy is firmly rooted in the principles of student-centered education."

"He passionately believes in fostering an inclusive environment where learners of diverse backgrounds and abilities collaborate, think critically, and unleash their creative potential. This approach allows students to take ownership of their educational journey, nurturing a lifelong love for learning. Roque is also a supporter for integrating technology purposefully, leveraging its capabilities to enhance engagement and cater to varied learning modalities. By blending interactive tools with traditional teaching methods, he cultivates a dynamic partnership between students and educators, equipping students with essential digital skills for the modern world," the media release said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HOUSE

From page 1

ly to House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), during these difficult times, there is a need to enhance MVA's promoting capabilities in order to minimize the tourism industry's adverse impacts and maximize its benefits.

The committee said this legislation, Senate Bill No. 23-02, House Substitute 1, will empower MVA with enhanced promoting capabilities and the ability to tap into sources of funds that otherwise would not be available to it if its duties are not expanded.

The full House is expected to adopt the committee's report and pass the legislation during their regular session tomorrow, Thursday.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) introduced Senate Bill No. 23-02 last Jan. 10. The Senate unanimously passed the legislation last April 20 and it was subsequently referred to the House Commerce and Tourism Committee chaired by Rep. Julie Marie A. Ogo (Ind-Rota) for disposition.

MVA supports the bill.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan stated that the proposed legislation, which will clarify MVA's duties as to projects and programs to enhance the CNMI as a tourist destination, is legally sufficient.

The committee adopted some changes to the bill by including a sunset provision, among other things.

The legislation proposed to amend the Commonwealth Code by adding three subsections under MVA's duty to promote tourism.

Under the legislation, MVA's duties include planning, designing, and proposing projects and programs to enhance the CNMI as a tourist destination on properties not located within 150 feet from high water, without the expressed approval of the Department of Public Lands.

The legislation proposes that MVA's duties include planning, designing, and developing tourist-enhanced projects, including but not limited to recreational and public facilities that will attract potential visitors.

Under the bill, MVA shall collaborate and work with the Division of Parks and Recreation under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the DPL in developing facility designs and the overall improvement of the sites under the jurisdiction of the DPL and the mayors of the respective senatorial districts pursuant to the designation conditions issued by the DPL on public lands located within 150 feet of high water.

MVA may sponsor events and issue grants for construction projects and programs to increase visitors' satisfaction, but shall not generate revenue for MVA from such events, construction projects, and programs.

GOV'T

From page 1

DeLeon Guerrero has filed Senate Resolution No. 23-10 that urges Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to reserve Commonwealth funds to provide such retiree bonus or COLA.

The president told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the government has the option to provide a bonus or COLA, however, she believes it is best to offer COLA that is intended to keep up with inflation similar to that the U.S. Social Security provides on an annual basis when they could.

She said while costs of goods/living is on the rise, retirees or annuitants do no see a change in their fixed income.

"This resolution allows the government to consider setting aside revenue when available to fund such offering to help our annuitants afford their bare necessities," said DeLeon Guerrero, who introduced similar legislation in the prior legislature.

The president stated in the resolution that although the CNMI government is in a financial crisis and it continues to operate during an economic recession, a bonus for the retirees should be considered and factored into future allocations and appropriations of funds.

DeLeon Guerrero said that after the establishment of the NMI Settlement Fund in Aug. 2013, the retiree bonus was subject to the discretion of the governor and the availability of funds for appropriation.

She said that in December 2016, the Legislature appropriated $3.5 million in casino revenue collected from the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to be equally distributed to pay a bonus to the retirees and retiree's beneficiaries pursuant to Public Law 19-75.

The president said the last retiree bonus distributed to the Settlement class members and the CNMI Fund members was in December 2017 pursuant to Public Law 20-35.

She said specifically, the amount of $3.5 million was appropriated to be distributed equally to all Settlement Class members and CNMI Fund members receiving an annuity.

Since then, DeLeon Guerrero said, the CNMI and the people suffered catastrophic loss and damages from Super Typhoon Yutu and that retirees and beneficiaries were not spared in the typhoon loss and damages.

She said in late 2019 when the CNMI just started to recover from the devastation caused by Typhoon Yutu, COVID-19 pandemic invaded the CNMI and shut down the government operations for several months in 2020 and most of the CNMI economy for more than one year.

DeLeon Guerrero said the people, especially the retirees and beneficiaries have suffered financially and continue to endure increased cost of goods and services due to the detrimental consequences of the pandemic.

She noted that since 2020, the CNMI government has received over $800 million in federal grants, loans, and appropriations.

Specifically, the president said, the CNMI received $243 million from the Community Development Block Grant—Disaster Recovery, $93 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency Community Disaster Loan, and $481 million from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

DeLeon Guerrero said although CNMI local revenues have plummeted since March 2020, the infusion of such federal funds, and other federal funds and grants received by the government may free up Commonwealth or local funds that can be used to provide a retiree bonus for all retirees and beneficiaries.

She said the people of the Commonwealth, most especially the retirees and beneficiaries would benefit from the retiree bonus to assist their families financially and in turn help the CNMI economy.

AIRPORT

From page 1

Last week, CPA board members had an emergency board meeting to discuss the dire need to adopt a new, unpopular, budget for fiscal year 2024.

During the meeting, four board members voted in favor of increasing the current parking fee of $2 at the Saipan International Airport parking lot. Meanwhile one board member, Antonio Cabrera, abstained from voting.

The board members who, despite their reluctance, voted to increase the current parking fee were board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, vice chair Ramon Tebuteb, and board members Pete Reyes and Thomas Villagomez.

In an interview with King-Hinds after the emergency board meeting, she clarified that with the new increase, parking at the Saipan International Airport has gone up from $2 per hour to $5.

However, for parking under 30 minutes, one would be charged $3.

"The parking fee at the Saipan International Airport is currently $2 per hour. With the recently adopted increase, come fiscal year 2024, individuals parking at the Saipan International Airport will be charged $3 for 30 minutes and $5 per hour," she said.

With the increase in parking fees, CPA projects additional earnings of over $20,000.

Aside from the increase in parking fees, CPA has also adopted a 90% increase in landing fees for both the Saipan airport's main terminal and the commuter terminals for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

In addition, the CPA board also adopted a 79% increase in its current terminal rental rate for both the Saipan International Airport's main terminal and for the commuter terminals for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

With the newly adopted budget, the CPA terminal rental rates for the Saipan International Airport's main terminal goes up from $19.49 per square foot to $34.92. Meanwhile, the terminal rental rates for all CNMI commuter terminals is now up from $7.79 to $13.97.

As for landing fees, with the 90% increase, CPA will now be charging international airline carriers $15.25 per thousand pounds of certified maximum gross landing weight of the aircraft; they were previously being charged $8.01. As for CNMI commuter terminals, the 90%-increase would bring landing fees up from $4.81 to $9.15.

Aside from the increase in rates, the CPA board also adopted an eight-hour cut for all CPA employees and suspended its airline incentive program.

All these changes will take effect come fiscal year 2024, which starts on Oct. 1, 2023.

Last chance to nominate for 2023 Bridge of Light Award

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence has issued a final call for nominations for the highly regarded 2023 Bridge of Light Award.

With the submission deadline rapidly approaching, this is the last opportunity for individuals to recognize and honor those who continue to demonstrate exceptional dedication toward ending domestic and sexual violence in the CNMI.

The Bridge of Light Award, presented annually by NMCADSV, seeks to shine a spotlight on individuals who have acted as beacons of hope, serving as a "Bridge of Light " and support for victims and survivors.

Candidates eligible for consideration must be actively involved as service providers, first responders, representatives, or volunteers within various eligible agencies, organizations, or offices in the CNMI.

Nominees should demonstrate a minimum employment or volunteer duration of one year and/or showcase significant accomplishments that have contributed to the ongoing efforts to combat domestic and sexual violence.

To submit a nomination for a deserving individual, please visit the official nomination form: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y37CJCJ.

The deadline for nominations is set for this Friday, Sept. 8, 2023, at 11:59pm ChSt. During the evaluation process, all nominations will be thoroughly reviewed based on the provided information.

It is strongly encouraged that nominators provide specific and comprehensive details to effectively illustrate why their nominee deserves this esteemed award.

The recipient of the 2023 Bridge of Light Award will be unveiled during the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation Signing Ceremony.

In addition to this honor, the awardee will be granted an exclusive opportunity to participate in a national training program provided by NMCADSV.

Self-care prizes sponsored by Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Bridge Capital, LLC, will also be bestowed upon the recipient.

Past recipients of the Bridge of Light Award have included outstanding individuals such as Flora Aguon, an officer from the Department of Public Safety; Lauri B. Ogumoro, executive director of Karidat Social Services; Mildred W. Sikebert, a social worker from the Division of Youth Services; Elaine C. Dela Cruz, a counselor from Karidat Social Services; Diana Camacho, executive director of Ayuda Network Inc.; John Aguon, a victim advocate from the Attorney General's Office, Vivian T. Sablan, director of DYS; Rose Taman Rios, an officer from the Department of Public Safety; Calvani P. Deleon Guerrero, a victim advocate from Karidat Social Services; and most recently, Lupe Ann L. Maratita.

For additional information about the 2023 Bridge of Light Award or inquiries regarding the nomination process, please contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or via email at info@endviolencenmi.org. ***(PR)***

Crowne Plaza is latest ProaPerks partner

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan has recently become a part of the Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partners program, making it the latest addition to a growing list of participating businesses and organizations. All NMC ProaPerks cardholders can now enjoy a 15% discount on purchases at the Market Place. Furthermore, on their birthdays, cardholders are entitled to a 20% discount on cakes.

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is located on Coral Tree Avenue in Garapan, and more information can be found on their Facebook page (@CrownePlazaResortSaipan).

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan joins the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., AQUASMITH, Athlete's Foot, Avis Rent A Car, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Beach Garden Hotel & Apartment, Bistro Marianas, Capital Hotel, Chagi Norf Kitchen, Boarderline, Bolis R US 2, Candle J, Caravan of Food, Casa Decor, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, Chungi Wa Korean Restaurant, Clear Water Place, Clear Water Residence, Clear Water Villa, Coral Garden Hotel, Cosmos Lounge, D' Chef's Kitchen, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days, Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Flame Angel, Fork and Spoon, Furusato Restaurant, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, GIG Night Club Oasis, Gold's Gym, GIG Nightclub Oasis, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC. dba Ginen Saipan, Hafa Adai Rent A Car, Hardt Eye Clinic, Inc., Healing Stones Spa, Highway Express Auto Care Center, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc., Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Hotel Americano, Ina's Kitchen, International Roller Skates, Isla Shave Ice, Islander Rent A Car, Java Joe's, JC Cafe, Jhen's Sweet Corner Cakes, Judy's Cafe & Restaurant, Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell, Kiki's, Korea House Restaurant, Latte Built Gym, Lohas Massage, Lohas Nails, Lucky Store, Lucky II Mart, Magbers Snack Bar, Majesty Restaurant, Mango Sole, Lighthouse, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Megabyte, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk tea, Namaste Beautiufl Salon & Spa, Nam Dae Moon, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Ocean Star Restaurant, Pacific Home Appliances, Paradise Dental Spa, Paradiso Resort & Spa, Pena

See CROWNE on Page 6

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Tel.: (670) 234-5684
Email: dnie@pacificlawyers.law
Attorneys for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF FRANCISCO FEJERAN FAISAO, (DOB: 10/11/1967), DECEASED	] CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0161] NOTICE OF PETITION TO APPOINT ADMINISTRATOR AND FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION] Date: September 14, 2023] Time: 10:00am] Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner Franklin Faisao Jr. has filed with the Clerk of this Court a Petition to Appoint Administrator and for Letters of Administration in the above-captioned matter. Petitioner is represented by Cong Nie, Banes Horey Berman & Miller, LLC, First Floor, Macaranas Building, 4165 Beach Road, Garapan, P.O. Box 501969, Saipan, MP 96950.

The petition is set for hearing at 10:00 a.m. on September 14, 2023 at the CNMI Superior Court, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any person who has any objection to the petition may file his or her objection with the Superior Court at any time before the hearing to present such objection or interest in the above captioned matter.

Creditors and all persons having claims against the Decedent or of his estate are hereby notified that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 24th day of August, 2023.

Clerk of Court

Roger M. Osarch
9974 Pahong Street, Kagman
P.O. Box 502526
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 785-3567
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JUANA FAISAO OSARCH (DOB: 02/18/1962), Deceased,	] CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0155] NOTICE OF PETITION TO APPOINT ADMINISTRATOR AND FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION] Date: September 14, 2023] Time: 10:00 a.m.] Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, AND CREDITORS OF JUANA FAISAO OSARCH, DECEASED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner Roger M. Osarch has filed with the Clerk of this Court a Petition to Appoint Administrator and for Letters of Administration in the above-captioned matter. Petitioner is acting pro se and his mailing address is P.O. Box 502526, Saipan, MP 96950.

The petition is set for hearing at 10 a.m. on September 14, 2023 at the CNMI Superior Court, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any person who has any objection to the petition may file his or her objection with the Superior Court at any time before the hearing to present such objection or interest in the above captioned matter.

Creditors and all persons having claims against the Decedent or of her estate are hereby notified that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 6th day of September, 2023.

Clerk of Court

McKeever begins role as UOG Board of Regents chairperson

Sandra McKeever, president and CEO of locally owned wealth management firm Asia Pacific Financial Management Group, is the new chairperson of the University of Guam Board of Regents.

McKeever ascended from being the vice chairperson on September 1, succeeding chairwoman Liza J. Providо, whose term on the board will be ending soon.

For 24 years, McKeever has been serving the financial planning needs of individuals, businesses, and organizations in Guam and Micronesia.

McKeever

She also served as the former president of the Guam Chapter of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisor , former board member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce, and the founding member of Teach Money, a non-profit that runs the Securities Industry and Financial Market's Stock Market Game. The interactive competition gives students in 4th- to 12th-grade the opportunity to learn about investing.

McKeever is a 2016 UOG Distinguished Alumna, having earned her Business Administration degree in marketing in 1999 from the School of Business and Public Administration.

Passionate about UOG, half of her workforce at Asia Pacific Financial Management Group are UOG alumni.

"The quality education I received at UOG was a big part of my success in my career and my volunteer work. As a business owner, I also experienced that UOG graduates are equipped to get through the intense training and skill development that our industry entails," McKeever said.

"I look forward to working with our new University President, Dr. Anita Enriquez, at inspiring and developing our future leaders for service in both the private and public sectors, as well as providing resources and critical services to the island community as a whole."

Enriquez expressed appreciation for McKeever's leadership.

"As a distinguished alumna of UOG and respected professional in her field, Chairperson McKeever serves as an inspiration for our students and other alumni," said Enriquez. "I am looking forward to working with her as we develop our new strategic plan—"Tulos Mo'na—and continue to propel UOG forward."

President Enriquez also recognized former chairperson Providо.

"On behalf of the administration, faculty, and staff, we thank former chairperson Providо for her dedication and service to UOG over the past six years."

The UOG Community also welcomes new board vice chair Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero, and Mike Naholowaa, who keeps his role as the board's Treasurer.

Leon Guerrero is senior vice president and chief experience officer at the Bank of Guam. Naholowaa also is a banker whose career at the Bank of Guam spans almost half a century.

The other Board of Regents members are:

- Liza J. Providо, regent,
- Agapito "Pete" A. Diaz, regent
- Roland S. Certeza, regent
- Dr. Janice P. Malilay, regent,
- Julie A.L. Laxamana, Student regent

The board awaits the governor's appointment and the Legislature's confirmation of a new regent to fill in the seat vacated by Bernadette "Bernie" Valencia.

Enriquez serves as the board's executive secretary. ***(PR)***

FOA to hold auditions

The Friends of the Arts, Saipan's community theater, is holding auditions for the first productions in its youth theater program.

In late October, FOA will produce an extended one act production, and a short one act production performed and produced by middle school and high school students.

The audition and informational meeting date is Sept. 9 from 3pm to 5 pm and 1:30pm to 3pm Sept. 10, both at Marianas High School Room 102D.

FOA is also looking for adults who may wish to participate. ***(PR)***

CROWNE

From Page 5

House Pizzeria Bar & Grill, Pokiyaki, Residence Lodge, Saipan Computer Services, Salt & Barber Salon, Shirley's Cafe, Spicy Thai Noodle, Salty's, Smiley Cafe & Playland, Stay Cafe, Summit Auto Repair Shop, Surf Club, Residence Lodge, Tapped Out, Tempura's Best Restaurant, The Hut, The Ohala Foundation Clothing, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Time Creation Corp., Tinian Diamond Hotel, Tom Yum Restaurant, Tribe Marianas, MangoSole, and Triple J Motors.

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To Apply: This job opportunity is for a full-time position. Interested applicants may submit their applications, resume, and/or other credentials at the Marianas Health Services Building, Ghiyeghi Street, San Jose, Saipan, CNMI Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Applications may be sent via email to: recruitment@marianashealth.com. Only U.S. qualified workers will be considered.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 23-01
United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

Court Services Coordinator

Permanent, Full-Time Position - Location: SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
Starting grade: CL-24 step 1 to CL-26 Step 25, $46,435 to $70,603 (which includes 12.25 % COLA)
(Depending on qualifications and experience; promotion potential to CL-26 without further competition.)
(Ultimate pay potential CL 26 $71,192 - $91,787 by progressive performance and career salary progression.)
Opening Date: September 1, 2023 • Applications received by September 14, 2023 will be given priority.

Position Overview:
The Court Services Coordinator provides administrative support for Magistrate Judge court cases, compiles data and produces various reports, prepares travel cost estimates and payments, acts as Human Resources and staff development coordinator, researches and coordinates public outreach programs and conferences. Obtain the complete position description at https://www.nmid.uscourts.gov/employment This position includes full federal employment benefits, with paid leave, federal holidays, health insurance, life insurance, and federal retirement benefits.

Minimum Qualifications and Preferred Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent with at least one year general work experience plus one year of specialized work experience in finance, human resources, public relations, information technology, graphic arts, or court and legal administration. Education above the high school level may be substituted for one year of general work experience. Additional preference will be given for college degree. Applicants should demonstrate sound ethics and judgment, be able to communicate effectively (orally and in writing), and be skilled in word processing, spreadsheets, and be trainable in using automated systems.

Citizenship Requirement:
Applicants are required to be U.S. citizens or aliens who are authorized to work in the United States.

Notice to Applicants:
Excepted service appointments are "at will" and may be terminated by either the court or the employee at any time for any reason. Selectees may be subject to a background check or investigation and suitability determination; and may be subject to an updated background investigation every five years. Employees are subject to the Judicial Code of Conduct. Direct bank deposit of pay is required.

Application Procedure:
Cover Letter, Resume, and AO-78 application form are *required*. (Questions 18, 19, and 20 on page 5 of the AO-78 need not be answered.) AO-78 forms are at:
https://www.uscourts.gov/forms/human-resources-forms/application-judicial-branch-federal-employment
or may be picked up at the U.S. District Court. Please compile your Cover Letter, Resume, and your *signed* AO-78 application into one combined PDF document and email to: HR@nmid.uscourts.gov

Position is open until filled; applications received by September 14, 2023 will be given priority.

The United States District Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2023

Opening date: August 09, 2023 **Closing date: September 11, 2023**

Location: SAIPAN **SALARY: UNCLASSIFIED**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NATURE OF WORK

The Executive Director is the CPA chief executive officer, serving at the pleasure of the CPA Board of Directors and responsible for implementing the policies and decisions of the CPA Board of Directors. Statutory powers and duties of the Executive Director are listed in the Commonwealth Code at 2 CMC §2127.

Under the general direction of the CPA Board of Directors, the Executive Director is responsible for the planning, supervision, and coordination of the management, operation, and maintenance of all CNMI airports and seaports, as stated in the CPA statue and regulations. The Executive Director is in charge and control of the operation and maintenance of all CPA ports. The Executive Director is also in full charge and control of construction of all CPA ports, facilities, and other necessary or incidental works controlled by or required to be constructed or repaired by CPA. The Executive Director exercises independent judgment in finding solutions to situations or problems in which no clear precedents exist.

The Executive Director is to devote full time to the business of CPA. The Executive Director shall be on call at all times after normal working hours and on weekends and holidays. The Executive Director shall also make recommendations to the CPA Board of Directors on matters impacting airport and seaport management, maintenance, and operation, represent CPA at meetings and conferences and before community groups, service organizations, civic committees, and technical industry organizations with respect to airport and seaport matters, and perform related duties as required.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Monday, September 11, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

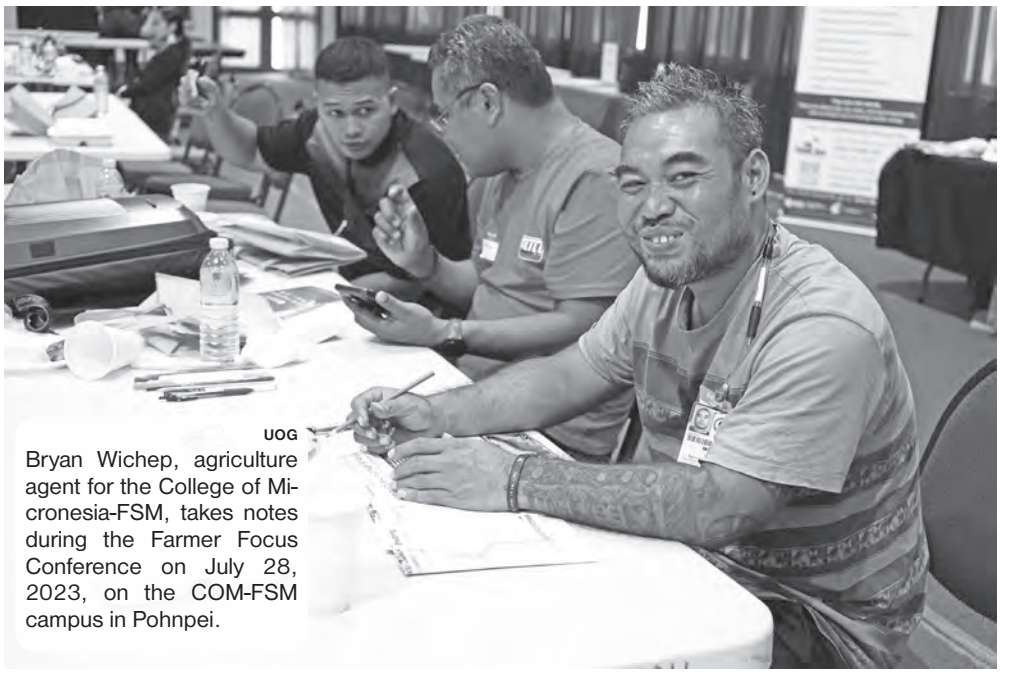
Farmer Focus Conference makes its way to Pohnpei

In June 2023, a national effort to help agricultural producers manage stress made its way to one of the Western-most areas of U.S.-affiliated farming soil: the state of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia. Some 25 agricultural producers, workers, and professionals took part in the Farmer Focus Conference on mental health on June 28 at the College of Micronesia-FSM campus in Palikir.

"Farming is really high-risk work, and farmers do not really talk about their spirits too much, especially their stress level, so we really want to bring this awareness to our region," said Dr. Kuan-Ju Chen, an agricultural economist and lead of the Farmer Focus Project at the University of Guam.

The Farmer Focus Project, part of UOG's Cooperative Extension & Outreach service, is a sub-grantee of the USDA-funded Western Region Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP) at Washington State University and co-hosted the conference along with the extension service of COM-FSM.

The COVID-19 pandemic further compounded the issue, said COM-FSM President Theresa Koroivulaono. "There have been growing concerns, particularly about mental and behavioral health in our communities, and these concerns continue to persist," she said.



UOG

Bryan Wichep, agriculture agent for the College of Micronesia-FSM, takes notes during the Farmer Focus Conference on July 28, 2023, on the COM-FSM campus in Pohnpei.

Top stressors for FSM farm workers

The conference featured customized content based on data released earlier this year by WRASAP on the top stressors in the agriculture profession in the four Micronesian island states.

The reports revealed that 73% of the ag workers surveyed and 80% of farmers/producers surveyed throughout Micronesia felt a medium level of stress on the Perceived Stress Scale, a commonly used psychological questionnaire, while 9% of workers and 15% of farmers reported a high stress level. Even at the medium level, those individuals would benefit from counseling and other positive coping mechanisms, said Dr. Michelle U. Grocke-Dewey, a health and wellness specialist with Montana State University Extension who led the data collection and reports for WRASAP.

The farm workers surveyed reported their top stressors as grief over the death of a loved one or friend, crop and plant diseases, and financial worries. For farmers/producers, the top stressors were crop and plant diseases, COVID-19, and family-related stress. The respondents also shared that they would find value in education related to financial management, nutrition/cooking, and physical activity.

Customized to Pohnpei farmers' needs and interests

The Farmer Focus Conference in Pohnpei was curated to address some of these topics of interest and to share local and online resources regarding stress and mental health in the agricultural community.

Attendees learned about indigenous ways of coping with stress from UOG's I'Pinangon Campus Suicide Prevention Program, using writing and stretching for stress relief, how to communicate their feelings to others, and how to make healthy recipes using locally available foods.

"When I heard about the Farmer Focus Conference, I felt so excited […]," said Johsper Nedlick Jr., an agricultural technician at the COM-FSM who works in hydroponics. "The best parts of the conference were the workout, the presentations, and the cooking — it was a good opportunity to learn how to cook fresh veggies with fresh meat."

Additionally, they received take-home materials, including breathing tips, and websites with resources and hotlines for farm and rural stress emergencies, such as the Ag-Well, Ag Wellness of Utah State University Extension, WRASAP, and UOG Farmer Focus websites.

"The perception is that farmers stay really calm and cool, but in actuality, our farmers are more stressed than that," said Don McMoran, who first envisioned and now leads WRASAP as the Skagit County extension director at WSU.

In fact, the National Violent Death Reporting System of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention reported in 2016 that farmers are one of five industry groups with the highest suicide rates, with 36 suicides per 100,000 workers.

"I've seen it in my own community, and we want to be proactive in making sure that agriculture-related suicides do not happen anywhere," McMoran said.

15 certified in Mental Health First Aid

One day of the conference was a Mental Health First Aid certification course for extension and other professionals in the community who work directly with farmers. In the training, certified instructors taught 15 participants about risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, crisis and suicide intervention skills, and self-care and referral resources.

"It's really helpful for us so we can identify if our clients are having stress in the field," said Rickyes Ikin, who works directly with Pohnpei farmers as an assistant of the College of Micronesia-FSM extension program. "[Now], when we see the symptoms, we can ask what's wrong and how we can help."

Farmer Focus moving forward

The Pohnpei conference was the second regional conference held by the Farmer Focus Project at UOG, following the first one held in 2022 in Guam with 100 attendees. WRASAP and UOG will continue to partner, bringing the conference to a different island in Micronesia every year with content specific to their interests.

"We can't break down stigma without having these conversations," McMoran said.

Stay informed on future Farmer Focus events and resources by visiting url.uog.edu/uogfarmerfocus and following @uogfarmerfocus on Instagram or Facebook. ***(PR)***

UOG

Elaine De Leon, a UOG extension associate, leads Pohnpei farmers in a cooking activity at the Pohnpei Farmer Focus Conference on July 28, 2023, on the College of Micronesia-FSM campus.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
ADDENDUM NO. 1
RFP NO.: RFP23-GOV/OGM-42300087

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"2023 ENERGIZING INSULAR COMMUNITIES 150 KW EXECUTIVE BUILDING SOLAR PV DESIGN-BUILT PROJECT"

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QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE BY SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 TO MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR. VIA EMAIL AT epi.cabrera@gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICK-BACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPHIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR
ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

America needs a hit song on the crisis of food insecurity, instead of a hit job on SNAP

Nothing tickles the pleasure center of a Republican candidate's brain quite like culture-war country music, the angrier the better, so it came as no surprise that while the first GOP presidential debate may have lacked the "800 pound gorilla" of Donald Trump, it was graced by a song that targets obese people eating snack food subsidized by tax dollars.

The tune in question is "Rich Men North of Richmond," and for those who haven't yet gotten a taste of the musical stylings of Oliver Anthony, "Rich Men" is a working man's lament of low pay and high taxes and an indifferent federal establishment (those rich men north of Richmond may be a bit vague geographically, but the phrase clearly rhymes better than those "talking sons of Washington" or "the busy bees of D.C.").

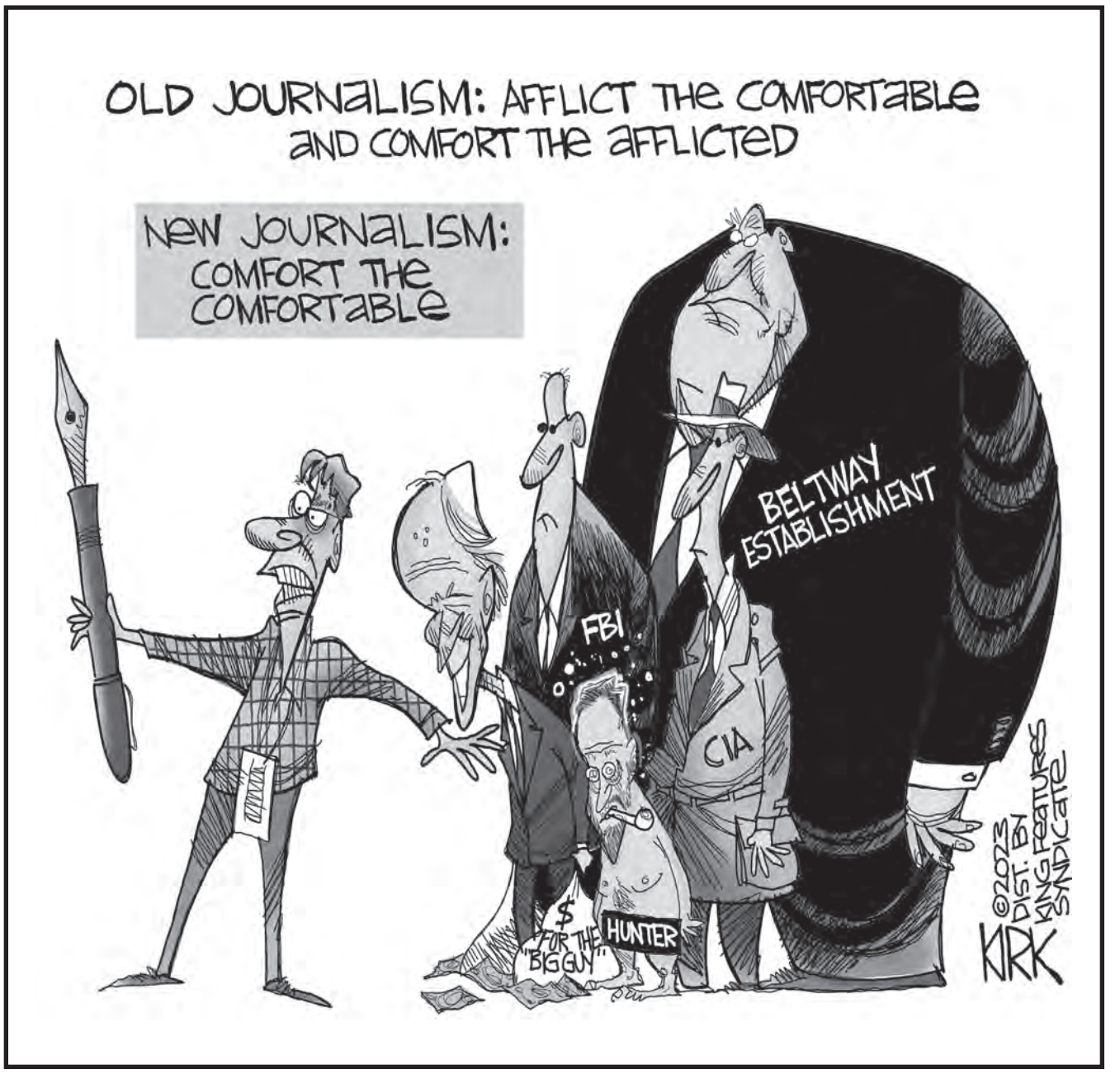
The song has recently vaulted to the top of the country music charts, and Anthony, a Virginian who was an unknown singer/songwriter until the piece caught fire, is having his 15 minutes, especially in the right-wing media. Much of the song is an angry diatribe about bureaucrats and how money doesn't go as far as it once did because of them. That's fair game. But obese people receiving help through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program? That should stick in the audience's collective craw.

"Well, God, if you're 5-foot-3 and you're 300 pounds, Taxes ought not to pay for your bags of fudge rounds," the song says. We're no physicians, but we'd say taxes aren't the problem in that example, it's the health of someone who is that overweight—man, woman or child.

The best response to all this we've heard on this subject so far comes from musician Billy Bragg in what he has described as his "answer song," "Rich Men Earning North of a Million" (with its own hefty YouTube following). He favors union membership to raise wages and universal health care to help those of us dealing with unhealthy weight gain. "So we ain't gonna punch down on those who need a bit of understanding and some solidarity. That ain't right friend," Bragg warns.

Of all the stuff the government spends money on, helping people get a decent meal should be awfully low on the list of things to complain about. SNAP is a big program, all right, and it grew during the COVID-19 pandemic, costing the federal government of about $119.4 billion in Fiscal Year 2022. More than 40 million Americans benefit from SNAP, or about 12.5% of the population. They are individuals living within 130% of the poverty line, which, for a family of four, is just $2,313 in net monthly income. Recipients are often disabled, elderly or receiving other forms of aid. The average beneficiary is white and unem-

See AMERICA on next Page



Ramaswamy's hot debate topic

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

"The climate change agenda is a hoax," said Vivek Ramaswamy, causing some to gasp because the person expressing this vile attitude could the next president if Donald Trump, Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, Tim Scott and a few others drop out as Republican opponents. He'd also need Joe Biden to hang in there. The remark was made during a Fox News debate of eight GOP candidates, and a poll said he won it, although there are those of us who say Haley won it.

He was still remarkable, though, this 38-year-old political newcomer from Ohio. He is a fascinating guy with a biology degree from Harvard, a law degree from Yale, American citizenship because his parents left India and a billion dollars from his work as a gifted high-tech entrepreneur. He is also gifted with a weaponized and sometimes soothing tongue, and the climate comment should have engendered more thought about what in the world our government is up to in its contest with planetary heat.

One thing is for sure, namely what Haley said. No matter what all the other nations do, none of it will matter a whit If China and India don't begin massive reductions in their fossil fuel consumption. Understand, too, that if the whole world reduced CO2 emissions to a scientifically preferred goal tomorrow, it would be a long, long time before any cooling was noticed, all the more reason to move intelligently.

Ramaswamy did not say the climate threat is trivial. After all, animal species are dying out, pain is mounting in some parts of the world and much is getting worse in the United States. That's partly because of contributions by our federal government and Biden, improperly instructed because he too often looks to his left for help.

An obvious example of ineptitude was Biden's initially cutting back on our energy production so we could instead warm the earth by buying fossil fuels from abroad, an act of pointless, costly sacrifice, all pain with no gain. Biden has improved some on that front but then had this idea of limiting power plant operations and thereby stifling electricity if managers didn't follow certain expensive, unsure instructions. The Supreme Court ruled he had no such right without an emergency decree that he said he had taken care of, although he hadn't.

Despite all the gripes, Ramaswamy's included, the United States is finally doing something right on climate issues, seeking out top companies to enable the removal of measured amounts of CO2 from the air, a capacity that might keep the planet safe while fossil fuels could do their CO2-emitting job without risk. On another subject, however, the government is said by some to be messing things up when it comes to electric cars. Capitalism and the auto industry could do the job if the showoffs would just leave them alone.

Meanwhile, those most fearing the approach of climate end days, including large numbers of young people, should visit with Bjorn Lomborg, a contrarian expert from Sweden who has pointed out that a half million people die from heat waves every year while 4.5 million die from cold waves. Climate change has been increasing heat deaths each year by 116,000 while reducing cold-wave deaths by 283,000, he has written.

Something else to keep in mind is that while natural disasters have been increasing, far fewer people have been dying as a consequence. The world has simply become a safer place, and the right policies could make it a still safer place. Among those who help the least are the sorts who rush to misinterpretation when it suits their politics—or are maybe just carelessness. Some said Ramaswamy said in the debate that climate change itself was a hoax. He didn't.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

School bus drivers keep our kids safe. Showing them respect could help improve the shortage

By JERALD MCNAIR
Chicago Tribune

Jerald McNair, who has a doctorate in education and a graduate degree in public policy, is a school administrator in South Holland, School District 151, in Illinois.

How many of us have seen a school bus come to a stop and activate its warning lights and stop arm, and yet a driver proceeds to pass the bus anyway? Imagine the fear that the bus driver must feel, as he or she is tasked with the responsibility of transporting children to and from school every day.

Last week, a child was killed and 23 others were injured in a bus accident in Clark County, Ohio, when a driver of a vehicle heading in the opposite direction veered into the bus driver's lane. It was the first day of school for the students; unfortunately, it's a day that those children and the families will never forget.

Moments like this remind us of the importance of those who oversee our children. In addition to family members, bus drivers are often the first people children see in the morning—during children's best and worst moments. If a child has had a disagreement with a family member, they board the school bus with all kinds of emotions. Bus drivers must drive safely, manage the behavior of the students and minimize conflicts.

School districts across the country are experiencing a shortage of bus drivers, whose essential role has never been more evident.

As a school administrator, I have had some challenges related to the busing of students but thankfully not many. I attribute this to the quality of the relationship the bus company has forged with the school district and the district's emphasis to our students on the importance of respecting their bus driver. Nevertheless, it is a persistent worry that parents and educational leaders have.

It's often said that you never truly appreciate something until it's gone. The supply of drivers continues to dwindle. Since the pandemic, it has decreased dramatically. Low pay, concerns about COVID-19, a lack of respect and competition from the private sector, which often pays more, are responsible for the shortage.

While many of us can't do anything about bus drivers' pay, we can respect the rules of the road. That includes stopping and being patient when the driver activates the stop arm, allowing children to cross the street safely, slowing down when a school bus passes by and just being mindful of the complexities of driving a school bus.

Lest we forget the fact that school buses are generally the safest vehicles on the road for children. In fact, research shows they are safer on the bus than in the car with their parents.

Yet, we don't value bus drivers enough. Why is that? Is it symptomatic of a larger societal problem in how we fail to appreciate certain workers?

During the so-called great resignation, caused in large part by the pandemic, workers were quitting their jobs in record numbers. In August 2021, more than 4 million people quit their jobs, Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows. The transportation industry was one of the hardest-hit industries, and school bus drivers fall under that category. While schools are back in session and operating normally, for all intents and purposes, the lack of bus drivers can cause significant challenges to student safety, students' attendance (and therefore the quality of their education) and anxiety for parents, students and educators.

Perhaps this can change if we do the obvious: Respect the important job bus drivers have. We all cherish our children and love them unconditionally. We should show it by abiding by the rules of the road.

Teaching our youths the importance of behaving correctly on the school bus is also our responsibility. After learning about the horrific school bus accident in Ohio, I met with many of my students to talk about it. I not only wanted to reassure them that they were safe but also remind them that they are responsible for listening to and respecting their bus driver.

Certainly, adults can learn a thing or two about that. States across the country have costly fines when drivers illegally pass a school bus driver. In certain states, jail time is a given.

Regrettably, punishment must be meted out for some of us to follow the rules and take care of our most precious investment: our children.

American writer James Baldwin once said: "Children have never been good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them." When we model to our youths how to behave appropriately, they will imitate us.

COVID'S back. Who's most likely to get it again?

By LISA JARVIS
Bloomberg Opinion

Lisa Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry. Previously, she was executive editor of Chemical & Engineering News.
This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

A new study is offering data to back one of the core assumptions about the spread of COVID: The intensity of exposure to the virus matters, and vaccines and prior infections can only help so much—but they do indeed help.

The research, led by scientists at the Yale School of Public Health and published in Nature Communications, also reinforces the common-sense notion that masks and air filtration can augment the protection provided by a vaccine and lower the risk of getting the virus. Anyone watching COVID cases bubble back up in their community should take that to heart: Infections aren't unavoidable, and the tools we've been using to protect ourselves are not just intuitive—and certainly shouldn't be controversial. They're increasingly backed up by evidence.

While real-world data has given scientists a reasonable sense of COVID vaccines' ability to protect against the worst outcomes of the virus, understanding their effectiveness at preventing transmission has been difficult.

A team of researchers struck upon a smart way of trying to show the vaccines are "leaky"—that is, they can protect against transmission, but only up to a certain level of exposure to the virus. They looked at infections in Connecticut prisons.

A correctional facility provides a unique opportunity to consider the vaccines' effectiveness. Rarely do researchers have such complete information on who a person is directly and intensely exposed to (a cellmate), is likely in regular close contact with (others in a cell block), or is potentially exposed to in more transient situations (in the broader community). Researchers meanwhile also knew how many times everyone had been previously infected or vaccinated. Even better, testing was conducted often and according to a set of rules, rather than personal inclinations.

By tracking infections during the delta and omicron waves, the researchers found that hybrid immunity—or having been both vaccinated and previously infected—did the best job at protecting people from getting COVID, even when in close quarters with someone with the virus. Immunity acquired from vaccination or previous infections alone was leakier—they conferred reasonable protection from infection when exposure to the virus was low, but much less when exposure was high.

There are, of course, limitations to the research. The study is observational, meaning it draws conclusions by looking back at the available data rather than actively testing a hypothesis. And the scientists could only assess the number of infections, not their severity. And of course, the prison population skews heavily male and young; I'd like to see this study repeated in settings where similarly frequent, rules-based testing occurred among an older population—say, at retirement homes.

Still, the paper suggests what shouldn't be controversial by now: Avoiding a prolonged exposure to COVID, even after vaccination and prior infection, is a good way to avoid getting infected. "We're not telling anyone anything that seems illogical based on what we've just gone through over the past few years," says Margaret Lind, an epidemiologist at Yale Medical School who helped lead the study.

But it adds nuance to the conversation. The study suggests that masks and ventilation matter, not only as their own form of protection, but because lowering your exposure to the virus seems to improve the effectiveness of the immunity conferred by your vaccines and previous infections, Lind says.

And there are clear takeaways for the public. For starters, anyone still dragging their heels on getting boosted should reconsider when the updated shots arrive in a few weeks. A mere 20% of adults in the US got the last booster, so there's a lot of room for improvement. The data have long been abundantly clear that the current crop of vaccines is critical for saving lives and keeping the most vulnerable out of the hospital, and now there's good reason to think keeping up to date on your boosters can help you also avoid some infections.

That's a reasonable goal. After all, we still don't have a good handle on the potential long-term health consequences of repeated infections with COVID, so using a tool to try to minimize that risk seems like a no-brainer.

As cases climb, it's also worth revisiting tried-and-true ways of lowering your exposure to the virus. That could mean pulling out a mask in situations where the risk might be high. And it should mean continuing to invest in improving the quality of indoor air we breathe, whether that's at home, school or work. At the very least, throw open a window while the weather is still warm.

AMERICA

From Page 8

ployed. Nondisabled recipients between the ages 16 and 59 have to seek work or enroll in job training in order to be eligible. They can use benefits for most forms of food—including snack food. And for many, that's the most prevalent type of food available.

Throughout Baltimore, for example, there are broad stretches of neighborhoods that lack access to affordable nutrition, known as "food deserts." In many cases, there's simply no grocery store. Convenience stores carry snack food, and they accept what in Maryland is known as the Independence Card or EBT Card. Even Oliver Anthony has acknowledged on Instagram that many people of limited means are left only with the option of eating junk food, explaining that he meant to criticize how government likes to "throw money" at problems.

We agree that government programs are far from perfect. What would be music to our ears, however, would be to hear less criticism of those trapped in poverty and more support to help them overcome it.

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Celebrating Our Cultural Heritage

Hafa Adai and Tirow! We join the rest of our community in celebrating the 2023 Chamorro and Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The celebration of Cultural Heritage Month is one of the many ways the people of our islands can develop a greater understanding and appreciation of the unique cultural diversity we find throughout our island chain. The month-long series of planned events also provides an opportunity for all residents to help protect, preserve and promote the distinct Chamorro and Carolinian ways of life, and ensures that future island generations have a deep understanding of and connection to their cultural roots and heritage.

The CNMI is a cultural home to Chamorros and Carolinians and a host to many other ethnicities, and we should continue to celebrate and build upon this diversity. We commend the organizers and participants of this year's events for their valuable role in upholding indigenous culture. Our Commonwealth is made richer through the values, ideologies, skills and art we will share throughout the month.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Ghilisow

Arnold I. Palacios
Governor

David M. Apatang
Lt. Governor

PROCLAMATION

CHAMORRO AND CAROLINIAN HERITAGE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2023

We, the Chamorro and Carolinian people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, are very proud of our cultures and traditions. Our heritage represents an array of distinct cultures that enrich both our indigenous people in many ways. Our way of life is valued through language, culture, customs, and traditions that we continue to embrace. Therefore, we dedicate our uniqueness by celebrating the month of September as our Chamorro and Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month.

WHEREAS, Chamorro and Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month will provide us with more opportunities to showcase our unique cultures and traditions. As Chamorro and Carolinians, we need to continue to educate and inspire our younger generation on the importance of our ways of living, we shall further promote and showcase them, so it may continue to flourish; and

WHEREAS, dedication and remembrance are very much a part of our culture. In particular, the respect and recognition of family values will be observed toward our familial heritage, traditional chiefs, clans, Samwool and Maga'lahi to remind us of our roots, and to commemorate the souls of those who gave their lives to preserving cultural practices and principles; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and honor the historical account of an animistic chief and principle lord named Ladahao, Maga'lahi, who lived in a village called Araiao located along the southwestern shore of the island of Saipan; and, WHEREAS, September 23, 2023 shall be dedicated to commemorate the 37th Anniversary of the 13 Fishermen lost at sea along with others who remain lost at sea and September 24, 2023 shall be dedicated to Chief Aghurubw, and all other traditional Maga'lahi and Samwool.

WHEREAS, our ancestors, who made their homes on these islands continue to live together in peace and harmony. With this, we strive for peace, we embrace unity, and we extend all cultures peace, harmony, and friendship; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, ARNOLD I. PALACIOS, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, by the authority vested in me, by the Constitution and Laws of the Commonwealth, hereby proclaim September 2023 as

CHAMORRO AND CAROLINIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH.

In light of this momentous occasion and to continue promoting our cultures and traditions, We would like to encourage all our Chamorro and Carolinian people, our public and private sectors to further display our unique island heritage through the wearing of traditional attire and adornment throughout the month of September. Furthermore, We invite and encourage our government and business sectors, especially our schools, hotels and restaurants, and other activities where our residents and visitors can congregate to facilitate cultural exhibits and performances. We urge the entire CNMI community to take this opportunity to celebrate our unique cultural heritage, through our entire music, dance, language, and traditions.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this 31st day of August 2023.

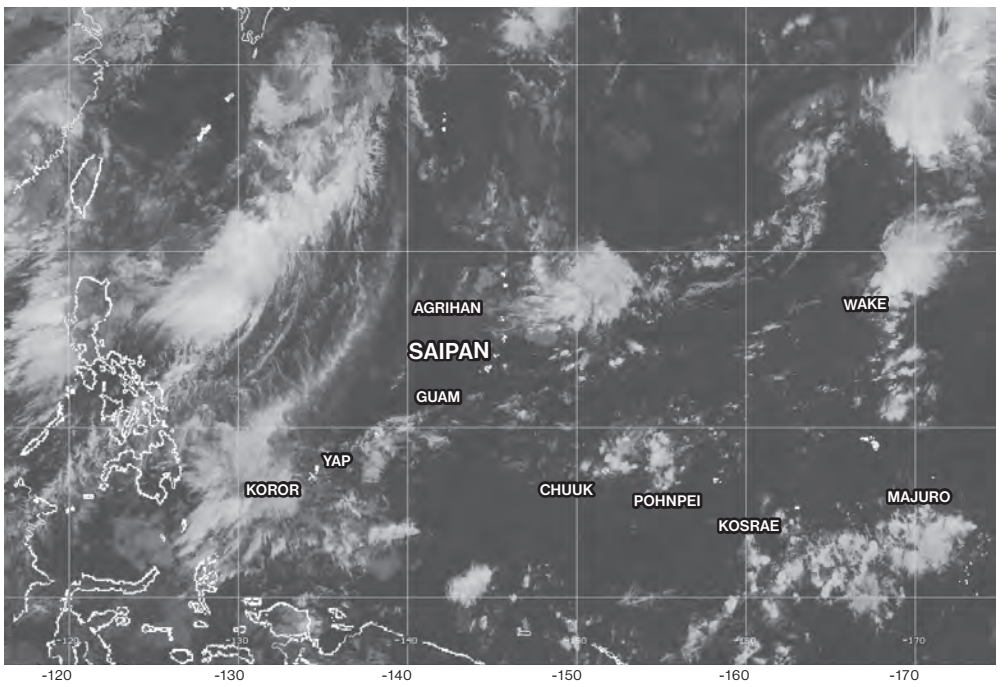
ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Governor

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Isolated showers. Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	85° 78°	86° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:26 AM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters this morning. The Ipan buoy reveals 2 to 3 foot east-southeast swell while computer wave model guidance suggests 2 to 4 foot west-northwest swell, which gives combined seas of 3 to 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorm	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:45 AM	11:14 PM
Thursday	-	12:43 PM	-
Friday	12:04 AM	1:38 PM	-
Saturday	12:57 AM	2:31 PM	-
Sunday	1:50 AM	3:20 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°
Beijing	Sunny	88° / 66°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Sunny	88° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	75° / 57°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	63° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
New York	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Osaka	Thunderstorm	90° / 77°
Paris	Thunderstorm	81° / 59°
Busan	Rain	84° / 79°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	79° / 63°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	90° / 70°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	66° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°
Tokyo	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	91° / 75°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
6:35 AM	Low Tide	0.17
1:44 PM	High Tide	1.68
6:47 PM	Low Tide	1.26
11:46 PM	High Tide	1.78

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1 up to Sep 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR 111	7:05AM	9:05AM	7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily up to Sep 4
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily from Sep 5

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1 up to Sep 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR110	11:40PM	5:35AM+1	6
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Pacifica GoGreen introduces CNMI's 1st commercial EV charging station

The CNMI's first commercial electric vehicle charging station will be accessible to all EV green drivers on Saipan starting tomorrow, Thursday, Sept. 7.

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. through its Pacifica GoGreen program, in partnership with Evlution Energy, has built an EV charging station that will be accessible to the general public, specifically to EV and plug-in hybrid car owners and enthusiasts.

As a way of giving back to the community for the nearly 50 years of business and support, Pacifica Insurance will allow charging at no cost to consumers for a whole year.

Consumers in the U.S. mainland are usually charged a fee for EV charging. They could pay for on-the-go service per kilowatt hour or a fee for a monthly subscription. Pacifica Insurance will be donating each kilowatt hour usage for a full year as a part of their Pacifica GoGreen initiative.

"Our single-stall commercial EV charging station is making its entry into our market as the first publicly accessible station in the CNMI, and we are very excited and honored to be making this introduction. Although our EV market is still quite small, we understand that its growth potential and chances of sustainability can only be made possible with good and adequate infrastructure such as an EV charging station, "said president and CEO Shirley Sablan "To further incentivize our green drivers, we will make charging free-of-charge for a whole year, and we hope they will also appreciate its central location."

Pacifica Insurance has partnered with Evlution Energy, a company based in Honolulu, Hawaii, to provide its state-of-the-art charging station that has been widely accepted nationally for its exceptional performance and reliability.

"EVlution Energy is excited to be the first EV charging station company in the CNMI. We are dedicated to slowing climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions caused by transportation and aim to be a driving force in the EV industry paving the way for growth and adoption of electric vehicles. We are looking to partner with smart businesses & property owners in Saipan by installing EV charging stations that attract EV drivers and support sustainability, and climate responsibility while making your location EV-friendly," said Evlution Energy president David Christophersen.

The charging station will be compatible with electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid vehicles manufactured for the United States market.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's first commercial electric vehicle charging station, courtesy of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. through its Pacifica GoGreen program, is located at the parking lot of Joeten Susupe.

Tesla owners will need to provide a manufacturer adapter provided directly by Tesla.

The charger will require green drivers to download the application JuicePass Enterprise for the JuiceBox EV charger, which can be downloaded for both Apple and Android OS.

JuiceBox promises 7x faster charging capability and is UL listed meeting all safety standards for the U.S.

The adapter cable is 25 feet long and has a J17712 connector standard compliancy.

Hours of accessibility for EV charging station will be Monday-Friday from 9am to 4pm and is located at the parking lot of Joeten Susupe. For the Google Map pin link, log on to www.pacificains.com/gogreen and tap or click on the "Click Here" icon embedded in the EV banner.

Pacifica Insurance extends its gratitude to Evlution Energy for taking part in its GoGreen program and for giving EV car owners another option to charging outside of their home.

"Lots of aloha and gratitude to Evlution Energy president David Christophersen for partnering and making history with us. We are also extremely grateful to our affiliate J.C. Tenorio Ent., Inc. (Joeten) for the prime real estate that now houses this historical EV charging station," said Sablan. "Joeten has been making giant leaps through countless historical firsts in the CNMI and this is only one of them."

The EV charging station initiative is riding on the Pacifica GoGreen slogan "Make Earth Your Best Friend" through which the company continues to encourage everyone to do their part to protect and preserve Mother Nature.

Pacifica GoGreen has also contracted the talent of Mark Sonoda and his podcast network we670 to help promote the EV charging station through his upcoming episode "The Future of How We Move in the Marianas" featuring Pacifica's operations manager Shigeki Tenorio. We670 can be found on the Instagram handle we670ig and on youtube.com/@we670. Stay tuned for this exciting podcast covering how the CNMI has made its way from the "karetan karabao" (Chamorro name for bull/cattle cart) to the EV vehicle.

For more information, contact Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. at (670) 234-6267/7722/7310 and follow them on Instagram, Facebook, and Youtube. ***(PR)***

Biden celebrates unions, job creation during Labor Day appearance

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— President Joe Biden, who often says he's the most pro-union president in history, touted the importance of organized labor and applauded American workers in building the economy during a Labor Day appearance in Philadelphia on Monday.

The Democratic president spoke about how the economy is recovering from the crippling coronavirus pandemic and about what his administration has done to pay for infrastructure improvements, and cited the importance of unions in building the middle class.

As the pace of the Republican primary season escalates, Biden is trying to reclaim ground among working class voters that abandoned Democrats and moved their allegiance to former President Donald Trump and others over cultural issues. And on Monday in Philadelphia he gave a preview of that argument, repeatedly referring to Trump as "the last guy" and likening Trump's job creation record to that of President Herbert Hoover, who presided over the country as it spiraled into the Great Depression and was soundly defeated by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Speaking of Trump — who is the leading Republican candidate in the polls so far — Biden said: "He left office with fewer jobs in America than when he got elected into office."

Biden spoke to a crowd of union members from a diversity of industries — from steel workers to stage hands — and focused on the impact that his administration's policies have had on working people.

"This Labor Day we're celebrating jobs, good-paying jobs, jobs you can raise a family on, union jobs," Biden told the crowd. Instead of standing at the podium, the president held the microphone in his hand and walked around the stage behind signs that read "UNION STRONG."

Labor Day, a holiday honoring workers, comes this year against the backdrop of increasingly emboldened U.S. unions of all kinds and a potential strike by 146,000 United Auto Workers union members.

The president was asked about whether there might be a strike and said he didn't think it would happen. That drew a quick reaction from the UAW's President Shawn Fain, who said he was "shocked" by the president's words and saying that the president "must know something we don't know."

"I think we've got a long ways to go," Fain said. "All three are required to have an agreement done by Sept. 14. That's the deadline for all three. And if they don't there will be action."

The union is pushing for pay raises, a shorter work week and restoration of traditional pensions. Fain said General Motors and Stellantis have yet to put forth a response to the union's economic proposals, while Ford's economic offer was far short of union demands. The union has filed unfair labor practice charges against GM and Stellantis for being slow to bargain, charges the companies have denied. Fain said the union's intent is not to strike but to get a fair agreement.

Labor Day also comes as the U.S. has added jobs and more people have begun looking for work — the most since January. That is news Biden is eager to highlight as he seeks reelection in 2024.

Biden still needs to persuade voters that his policies are having a positive impact on their lives. Only 36% of U.S. adults approve of Biden's handling of the economy, slightly lower than the 42% who approve of his overall performance, according to an August poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Biden was making his Labor Day speech days after news that America's employers added 187,000 jobs in August, evidence of a slowing but still-resilient labor market despite the high interest rates the Federal Reserve has imposed.

Friday's report from the Labor Department also showed that the unemployment rate rose from 3.5% to 3.8%, the highest level since February 2022 though still low by historical standards. But the rate rose for an encouraging reason: 736,000 people began looking for work last month, the most since January, and not all of them found jobs right away. Only people who are actively looking for a job are counted as unemployed.

Putin says he won't renew grain deal until West meets demands

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that a landmark deal allowing Ukraine to export grain safely through the Black Sea amid the war won't be restored until the West meets Moscow's demands on its own agricultural exports.

Ukraine and its Western allies have dismissed the Kremlin's demands as a ploy to advance its own interests.

Still, Putin's remarks dashed hopes that his talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan could revive an agreement seen as vital for global food supplies, especially in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Russia refused to extend the deal in July, complaining that a parallel agreement promising to remove obstacles to Russian exports of food and fertilizer hadn't been honored. It said restrictions on shipping and insurance hampered its agricultural trade, though it has shipped record amounts of wheat since last year.

Putin reiterated those complaints Monday, while also telling reporters that if those commitments were honored, Russia could return to the deal "within days."

Erdogan also expressed hope that a breakthrough could come soon. He said Turkey and the U.N. — which both brokered the original deal — have put together a new package of proposals to unblock the issue.

"We believe that we will reach a solution that will meet the expectations in a short time," Erdogan said at the news conference held with Putin in the Russian resort of Sochi.

Earlier, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock lashed out, saying Putin's "game with the grain agreement is cynical."

"It's only because of Putin that the freighters don't have free passage again," she told reporters in Berlin.

A lot is riding on the negotiation. Ukraine and Russia are major suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other goods that developing nations rely on.

Data from the Joint Coordination Center in Istanbul, which organized shipments under the deal, show that 57% of the grain from Ukraine went to developing nations, with the top destination being China.

Grain prices shot up after Russia pulled out of the deal but have since fallen back, indicating that there isn't a big crunch in the market for the moment.

But failure to revive the agreement will have "drastic impacts" in countries such as Somalia and Egypt that rely heavily on Black Sea grain, according to Galip Dalay, an associate fellow at the Chatham House think tank in London.

Putin is looking for some relief from sanctions and at the same time is engaged in a "war of narratives," Dalay said, because the Russian leader "doesn't want to come across as the bad guy in the eyes of the global south as a result of this food insecurity."

Ukraine and its allies have often noted that Russia's move left many developing nations in the lurch, since so many were recipients of the grain.

Good Housekeeping

Style at Home: Elevating your space with thoughtful room and fragrance combinations

By KATIE LAUGHRIDGE
Tribune News Service

Our devotion to creating inviting spaces knows no bounds, extending even to the ambiance that dances in the air.

We hold a special affection for Pickwick & Co. candles. Their warm glow and captivating fragrances are seamlessly woven into the fabric of our aesthetic. The flicker of a candle's flame invites you into a realm of comfort and luxury, evoking feelings that only a cozy home can inspire.

Crafted in small batches and poured by hand, the candles are imbued with fine perfumes and essential oils, capturing the essence of the world's most enchanting scents. It's the perfect harmony of design and fragrance, where every room becomes a sanctuary and every moment is transformed into a cherished memory.

We love the idea of pairing a room with its own fall scent, and think it adds an extra layer of complexity to the design. Each of the four rooms we'll walk through today is a beautiful example of autumnal elegance and new traditional design.

PHOTOS BY TNS

A creamy neutral living room is draped in fall accents.

Pumpkin Chai in the Ward Parkway Brick Room

This room is an oasis of caramels, creams and autumnal browns. What I love most about it is it exudes stately elegance without a hint of stuffiness.

The pillows, adorned in variations of charming autumnal plaids, provide a cozy and inviting touch. At the heart of the room is a cream-colored sectional nestled around a warm leather ottoman, creating a space that beckons relaxation and comfort.

To complement this sophisticated yet welcoming space, the choice of scented candle becomes essential. The Pumpkin Chai candle is the perfect match. It's a new spin on the traditional chai spice, elevated by the addition of autumn's favorite gourd.

As the flickering flame dances, the enchanting fragrance fills the air, blending the aromas of wild pumpkin, chai spices, cardamom, vanilla, ginger and cinnamon. With each gentle waft, autumn's allure lingers in every corner. I picture myself curling up on the sofa with a good book and an apple cider whiskey or chatting leisurely with friends while our littles giggle as they play on the floor.

Black Pepper for a moody neutral bed

This tan and black bed is a moody haven where sophisticated design intertwines with the masculine allure of Pickwick's Black Pepper candle. The candle is a harmonious blend of notes, from the fiery essence of black pepper to the refreshing zest of lemon, and the delicacy of jasmine and violet leaf. Its lingering base notes of oakmoss, amber and patchouli add depth to the fragrance.

The scent effortlessly mirrors the bed's essence, capturing the perfect blend of masculine and feminine tones. It's one of my absolute favorites!

The bedscape, like the Black Pepper candle, exudes an aura of refined contrast. The bed frame's black finish and natural cane lattice create a compelling visual interplay, complementing the warmth of the animal print duvet and matching pillows in soft, light tan hues.

The black-and-white buffalo check pillows introduce a dash of preppy charm, while ticking stripe pillows infuse a casual touch to the ensemble. The bed's inviting appeal is further elevated by flanking side chairs adorned with a striking black-and-white striped pattern, aligning seamlessly with the color theme.

Fall Foliage for an autumnal table

At the heart of the Trezo Room, which we have lovingly named after our neighbors we can see from the windows in the space, an opulent autumnal table steals the spotlight.

Cement turkeys, symbolic of the season's bounty, grace the tabletop, their presence augmented by a vibrant spray of fiery berries. An array of pumpkins, each possessing its own shape and personality, gracefully meanders along the center, nestled among fall branches and verdant foliage.

Place settings are a study in refined beauty, where blown glass pumpkins crown classic blue willow china. Lastly, deep neutral chargers and glassware, along with understated napkins, contribute to an atmosphere of sophisticated warmth.

A corner display, thoughtfully curated with large vases and baskets brimming with autumnal blooms, vintage-inspired birdcages and evocative bucolic artwork, adds another layer of charm to the room. This space becomes a haven where aesthetics and ambiance mix, enveloping you in an experience that engages the senses on multiple levels.

The Trezo Room finds its perfect match in the Fall Foliage scented candle by Pickwick. The essence of birch and maple leaves, infused with notes of pomegranate, juniper berry and orange blossom, create an olfactory tapestry that mirrors the room's autumnal palette.

Modern and new traditional elements mix in this seating area.

Gatherings in the Mullberry Drive Room

Let's step into the exquisite Mullberry Drive room, an enchanting atmosphere that captures the essence of the season. The walls are adorned in a deep, rich blue that sets a mood of timeless elegance. Your eyes are drawn to a fern green sofa situated opposite an opulently decorated mantle, where the deep burgundy pillows adorned with charming pheasant motifs stand out against the backdrop.

The centerpiece of the room, a stately tortoise shell coffee table, sits elegantly. Upon it, a vase brimming with dried blooms and an artful arrangement of gourds evoke the spirit of autumn. Just behind the sofa, a beautifully appointed desk boasts an array of red-hued books that harmonize with the fiery tones of nearby autumnal berries. A classic blue-and-white ginger jar, flanked by antler bookends, adds an element of sophistication to the vignette.

The Mullberry Drive room features a deep and sophisticated fall color palette.

Multiple patterns can play well together, especially when paying attention to scale.

Behind this scene, a separate seating area beckons with twin chairs dressed in regal emerald green upholstery. Their twig-like metal frames add a touch of nature's charm, while a painting of a deer complements the theme beautifully. The use of blue and white accessories lends a touch of new traditional elegance, enriching the room's overall aesthetic.

To amplify the rich sensory experience of the Mullberry Drive room, we've paired it with Pickwick's Gatherings candle. This captivating fragrance begins with notes of crisp, fresh autumn leaves that lead to a heart of woodland apples, wild berries and the warmth of cinnamon sticks. The fragrance journey concludes with hints of Norwegian sycamore bark and the comforting embrace of mahogany wood.

As you well know, in the wonderful world of interior design, the artistry doesn't stop at the visual. Pairing room designs with scented candles elevates your home to new heights of sensory delight. I definitely recommend you try it!

Adapted from nellhills.com. Katie Laughridge is the owner of Kansas City interior design destination Nell Hill's. For more information, contact Katie at info@nellhills.com.

Life & Style

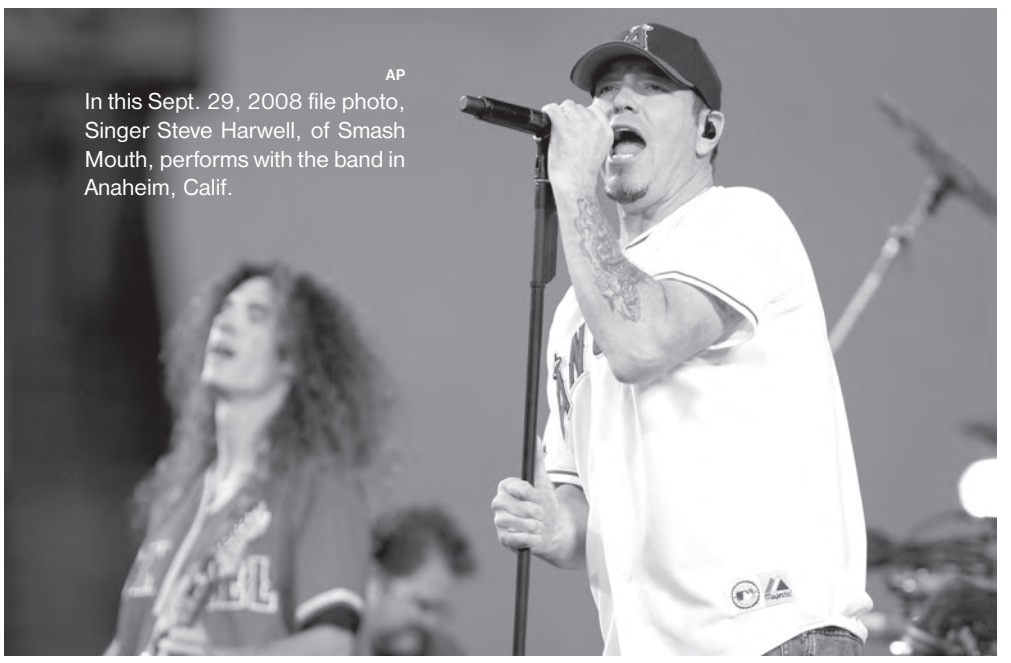
Smash Mouth frontman Steve Harwell dies at 56

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Steve Harwell, the longtime frontman of the Grammy-nominated pop rock band Smash Mouth that was behind the megahit "All Star" has died. He was 56.

The band's manager, Robert Hayes, said Harwell "passed peacefully and comfortably" Monday morning surrounded by family and friends at his home in Boise, Idaho. The cause of death was acute liver failure, Hayes said in a statement.

Smash Mouth is also known for hits including " Walkin' on the Sun " and " Then The Morning Comes."

"Steve Harwell was a true American Original. A larger than life character who shot up into the sky like a Roman candle," Hayes said. "Steve should be remembered for his unwavering focus and impassioned determination to reach the heights of pop stardom."



AP

In this Sept. 29, 2008 file photo, Singer Steve Harwell, of Smash Mouth, performs with the band in Anaheim, Calif.

"His only tools were his irrepressible charm and charisma, his fearlessly reckless ambition," Hayes said, adding: "Steve lived a 100% full-throttle life. Burning brightly across the universe before burning out."

"He will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him," he said.

Born in California in 1967, Harwell performed in a rap group called F.O.S. (Freedom of Speech) before forming Smash Mouth in 1994. The band released two platinum albums on Interscope Records, their ska-fueled 1997 debut and 1999's "Astro Lounge." The second album featured some of the band's biggest hits, including the Grammy-nominated, platinum single "All Star," which appeared in the movie "Shrek" alongside their cover of the Monkees' "I'm a Believer."

Humor was a driving force behind Smash Mouth's success, and at the forefront was Harwell's playful alt-rock voice and persona. He made a cameo in 2001 comedy film "Rat Race," and had a well-documented friendship with the Food Network chef and host Guy Fieri.

On Monday, tributes began pouring in. Fieri wrote on Instagram: "To my brutha Steve RIP. Today is a sad day, I will miss my friend."

NSYNC 's Chris Kirkpatrick and Joey Fatone also shared short homages.

"I'm truly sorry for the difficult battle you had to fight," Kirkpatrick posted on Instagram. "You were an amazing soul and will be deeply missed."

Fatone said he had known Harwell for a long time.

"Opened for NSync and even was my wedding singer at my wedding," wrote Fatone. "Hopefully people out there that are dealing with addiction. get the right help that they need."

"Today" host Carson Daly published a two-part statement on Instagram, detailing the first time he met Harwell in 1995, when he was a DJ on JOME in San Jose and Smash Mouth was a new band.

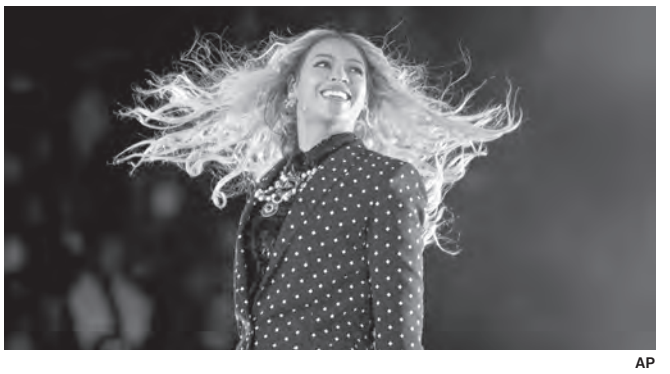
Beyoncé shines during Renaissance concert tour stop in Los Angeles

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Lights, cameras, Beyoncé!

The superstar singer shined the brightest in a city full of Hollywood stars during the second night of her epic Renaissance Tour show on Saturday night. She once again packed the massive SoFi Stadium filled with concertgoers wearing gleaming silver outfits at the request of Beyoncé who asked fans to sport the silvery wardrobe for the last month of her spectacular tour.

The crowd included many entertainers and athletes: Viola Davis, Issa Rae, Tracee Ellis Ross, Gabrielle Union, Dwyane Wade and Kelly Rowland. Some returned for a second straight night to witness another dazzling show from the impeccable Beyoncé, who will celebrate her 42nd birthday on Monday - the final night of her three-show stint in Inglewood, California. Her previous show Friday night brought out Prince Harry, his wife Meghan Markle, Pedro Pascal, Keke Palmer, Sofia Vergara, Brie Larson, Offset and Kris Jenner.

As usual, Beyoncé rose to the occasion as many of her BeyHive faithful tried to match her energy during her set lasting two and a half hours. Once she appeared onstage, it turned into a dance party served with a heavy dosage of self confidence, women's empowerment and beaming pride.



AP

Beyonce performs at a Get Out the Vote concert for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton at the Wolstein Center in Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 4, 2016.

Rolling Stones will release first studio album in 18 years, 'Hackney Diamonds'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The wait is over: The Rolling Stones will soon release new music.

On Monday, the band announced they are preparing to release their first album of original material in 18 years—since 2005's "A Bigger Bang."

Titled "Hackney Diamonds," the band will share details of the release at an event in East London's Hackney district on Wednesday, where Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood will be interviewed live by "The Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon.

The event will be livestreamed exclusively on YouTube on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. BST, 9:30 a.m. EST and 6:30 a.m. PST.

"Hackney may be at the heart of Hackney Diamonds, but this is a truly global moment we want to share with fans around the world via YouTube," the Rolling Stones shared in a statement.

The announcement of "Hackney Diamonds" follows a cryptic teaser campaign, in which the band's iconic mouth and tongue logo was projected onto the façade of major landmarks in cities around the world, including New York, London and Paris.

The album is also the Stones' first since the death of drummer Charlie Watts in 2021.

Event from man's past troubles current wife

DEAR ABBY: Two years before he met me, my husband of four years did something I feel was morally repugnant: He solicited a prostitute. When he committed this act, he was going through a dark period in his life. He was divorcing a woman who had cheated and left him for another man, raising his young son and dealing with immense feelings of insecurity.

He told me all of this while we were dating, and I thought I would eventually get over it. However, almost five years into our relationship, it still haunts me and makes me question his character. I hate that he was capable of doing something like this, regardless of what he was going through.

I have tried therapy, and we've tried couples therapy -- nothing has helped me to move on. He says this is not the type of person he is now, but I just can't seem to separate the man who did that awful thing and the man I fell in love with. Are some actions so awful that they stain a person for the rest of their lives? Are we doomed?

WRESTLING WITH IT IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR WRESTLING: Your husband was honest with you from the beginning of your relationship and has been, I presume, a faithful partner. As you stated, he was under a lot of pressure when that happened. I can't name one person who hasn't made a mistake sometime in the past, including me. Use some common sense and quit judging your poor husband for his one "slip," or PLEASE free him to find a woman who will appreciate him for who he is.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My spouse and I are retired. I thought we would spend our retirement doing things together, but all she wants to do is sleep. It is not unusual for her to stay in bed for two days straight, getting up only to use the bathroom and get a drink. She does not help with the housekeeping or other household chores.

I've asked her why she sleeps so much. She tells me she doesn't know why. I have gone with her to her doctors, and they have run tests. Physically there's nothing wrong to account for all her sleeping. This leads me to believe she's taking prescription medication to be able to sleep as long as she does. When I asked her if this was the case, she denied it.

My wife was sexually abused as a child and is currently being treated for depression. Her doctor and I have wanted her to see a psychiatrist, but she absolutely refuses. I've talked to her on several occasions and let her know I'm unhappy with how this is affecting our marriage. She seems not to care.

I'm thinking of getting a separation. Do you think this is advisable? Or do you have any other ideas? I love her dearly and being apart is not what I desire. She deserves all my efforts to help her before I just no longer care and give up.

FRUSTRATED IN INDIANA

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Losing interest in things someone used to enjoy and sleeping for "two days straight" are classic symptoms of SEVERE, CHRONIC depression. It may have been triggered by her retirement.

Your wife definitely should be talking to someone. If it's not a psychiatrist, then certainly a psychologist who works with a psychiatrist who will prescribe medications if they are needed. You and her doctor should insist upon it, because your wife appears to be very ill.

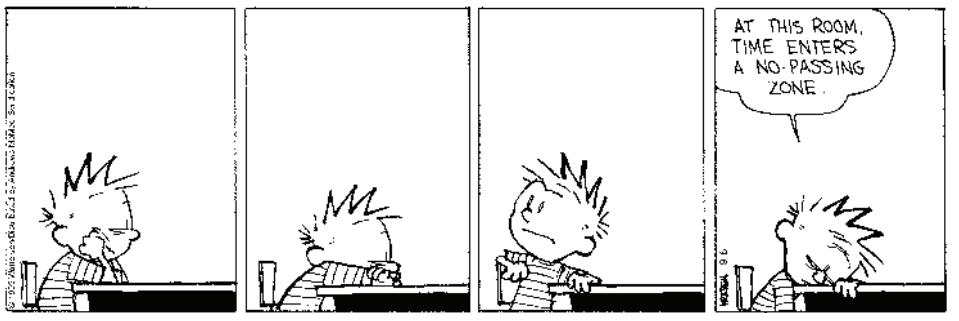
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

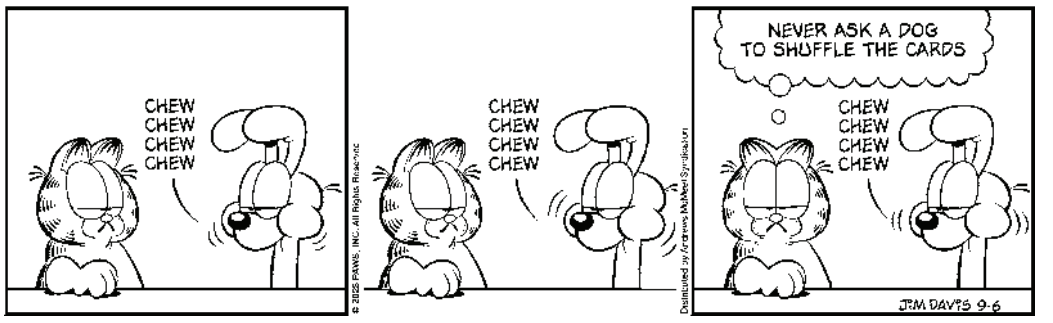
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY. I NEED A PLAN TO LOSE SOME WEIGHT AND GET IN SHAPE. IDEAS?
EXERCISE MORE AND EAT LESS?
YEAH...
I MEAN, THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING ELSE, RIGHT?
9-6

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THIS SAYS PETTING A DOG CAN LOWER YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE, SO I'M HERE IF YOU EVER HAVE HYPERTENSION.
I'LL EVEN BILL YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY TO SAVE YOU OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "East of Eden" brother
4 Sound booster
7 DVR brand
8 Diarist Nin
10 Israeli desert
11 Ravines
13 Warning from a bearer of bad news
16 Jaguar or Cougar, e.g.
17 Clueless
18 Sock part
19 Actress Sorvino
20 "That was close!"
21 100 bucks
23 Olympic sleds
25 Plumbing problem
26 Moth variety
27 007 creator Fleming
28 Fear greatly
30 Eastern path
33 "Have a fabulous time!"
36 Dorothy, for one
37 Brilliance
38 Tea biscuit
39 Pouchlike parts
40 Em halves
41 "No seats" sign

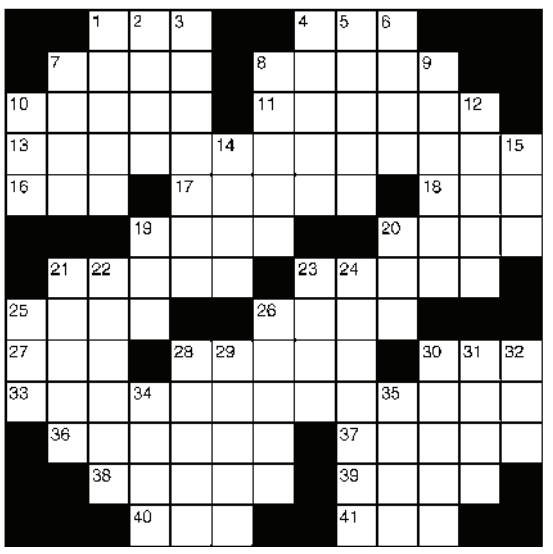
DOWN

1 Humidor item
2 With (Fr.)
3 Two-word rave review
4 Actress Aimée
5 Tie the knot
6 Pen pals?
7 Prefix with byte
8 Old marketplace
9 Do a slow burn
10 "The Wall" network
12 Plum relatives
14 Days gone by
15 Hardly any
19 Clear the deck?
20 Links org.
21 Model T starter
22 Japanese warriors
23 Maui meal
24 Disrobe
25 Conk out
26 Sierra —
28 Vacuum brand
29 David Lean's "— Daughter"
30 Verizon, e.g.
31 "Sad to say ..."
32 Frequently
34 Formerly
35 Cicatrix

Solution time: 23 mins.

C	N	B	C		B	T	S		S	A	Y	S		
H	O	R	A		U	R	L		T	R	C	I		
U	N	I	V		G	O	O	S	F	F	G	G		
G	O	O	I	E	S	T		T	W	A	I	N		
			A	M	Y		I	R	E					
S	M	A	R	I		G	O	O	D	A	L	L		
A	N	N			F	U	N			L	C	O		
G	O	O	G	L	E	S		S	W	A	P	S		
			L	I	Z		B	A	N					
S	C	R	A	M		G	O	O	F	O	F	F		
G	O	O	D	B	Y	E	S		F	L	C	E		
I	O	R	Y		A	N	S		L	G	B	T		
S	K	Y	S		K	E	Y		E	A	S	E		

Yesterday's answer 9-6



STUMPED? For answers lo today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18÷ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Idris Elba, 51; Rosie Perez, 59; Jane Curtin, 76; Swoosie Kurtz, 79.

Happy Birthday: Take a moment, gather your thoughts and plan what you want to accomplish this year. Consider what's most important to you and what will contribute to reaching that goal. Turn your attention to what makes you happy and search for how to work more happiness into your daily routine. Knowledge will broaden your scope, allowing you access to what matters most. Your numbers are 6, 13, 21, 28, 34, 39, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Speed things up and take care of unfinished business. What you do will clear the way for something new and exciting. A challenge will lead to better health and an upgrade to your looks and feelings. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Talk the talk and walk the walk. The connections you make networking will be what you need to push forward. Time spent evaluating your home and lifestyle will prompt you to make your surroundings comfortable and functional. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Steady your emotions before you speak in order to avoid being put in a vulnerable position. Someone will make you look bad if you are indecisive. Stick to the truth, regardless of what others do or say, and you'll come out on top. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* It's up to you to make the changes necessary to reach your goal. Study, practice and network to ensure you promote what you have to offer. Someone close to you has more to offer than you realize. Share your goals and see what happens. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Benevolence will help you excel but also subject you to criticism by those jealous of your appeal. If you follow your instincts and put your best foot forward, it will be difficult for anyone to deny you what you deserve. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep doors open and knowledge flowing. Contact people who make you think, and look for ways to bring in additional cash and make your money work for you. Don't hold back; say what's on your mind and find out where you stand. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Channel your energy into something meaningful. Learn, explore and expand your mind; it will do wonders for your soul. It's time to appreciate all you have and enjoy the fruits of your labor. Romance and personal growth are prominent. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Explore possibilities, recognize your talents and set boundaries when necessary. Consider what you want to do, and give your all. Opportunity is within reach, but you need to clear your agenda to position yourself for success. Don't be afraid to be different. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Trust what you see, not hearsay. Ask questions and say no to requests that don't fit your agenda. Follow your heart, take care of your health and surround yourself with people you love to be around. Build your happy place and live there. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A change will help you recognize what's missing in your life. Look for opportunities that free up time and ease stress. Use your attributes to fine-tune your life and enjoy who and what you love most. Invest in your health and happiness. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Evaluate your relationships and make changes that offer peace of mind. Pay attention to how you feel, look and spend your time. It's up to you to call the shots and to say no to those taking advantage of you. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Refuse to let what others do upset you. Remove yourself from situations that don't appeal to you, and new and exciting opportunities will come your way. A change in the way you earn and handle your money will make a difference to your mental well-being. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are cautious, well-versed and sympathetic. You are persuasive and complimentary.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3		5		4	2	
	2		7	6		8	5	
	1	5	8		4		6	
8	6	1	4	7			3	
5						1		8
3								6
	5	9		8			1	
	7		6				9	
2				1				

Difficulty: ★★★ 9/6

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	6	7	9	2	5	3	1	8
3	2	9	1	4	8	5	6	7
1	8	5	7	6	3	4	9	2
6	5	1	3	7	4	8	2	9
9	7	2	8	5	1	6	4	3
8	4	3	6	9	2	1	7	5
5	1	6	2	3	9	7	8	4
2	3	8	4	1	7	9	5	6
7	9	4	5	8	6	2	3	1

Difficulty: ★★ 9/5

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

TONY BENNETT (1926-2023) **Solution: 12 letters**

S	A	R	A	Y	S	T	E	U	D	A	L	L	A	B
O	I	K	T	I	M	O	T	T	E	D	E	N	E	B
L	R	N	C	U	C	R	E	G	N	I	S	C	R	L
I	O	A	A	I	O	I	A	S	T	C	A	A	D	U
T	T	Ⓡ	S	T	N	C	R	O	W	U	N	N	N	E
A	S	F	Ⓤ	Z	R	I	S	T	S	N	F	T	A	V
I	A	L	S	Ⓞ	Z	A	M	E	A	A	R	H	D	E
R	L	Y	A	D	Ⓣ	A	O	O	N	P	A	O	A	L
E	O	S	N	D	O	F	J	T	D	A	N	N	Y	V
G	V	A	S	T	Y	O	O	T	R	D	C	Y	O	E
R	E	E	I	O	H	N	M	A	A	U	I	H	C	T
D	D	T	U	N	I	D	H	E	G	O	S	C	A	R
N	I	T	R	A	M	N	G	B	A	L	C	R	E	A
G	O	O	D	R	E	A	M	S	G	C	O	A	S	E
S	T	H	G	I	L	B	N	W	O	T	E	M	O	H

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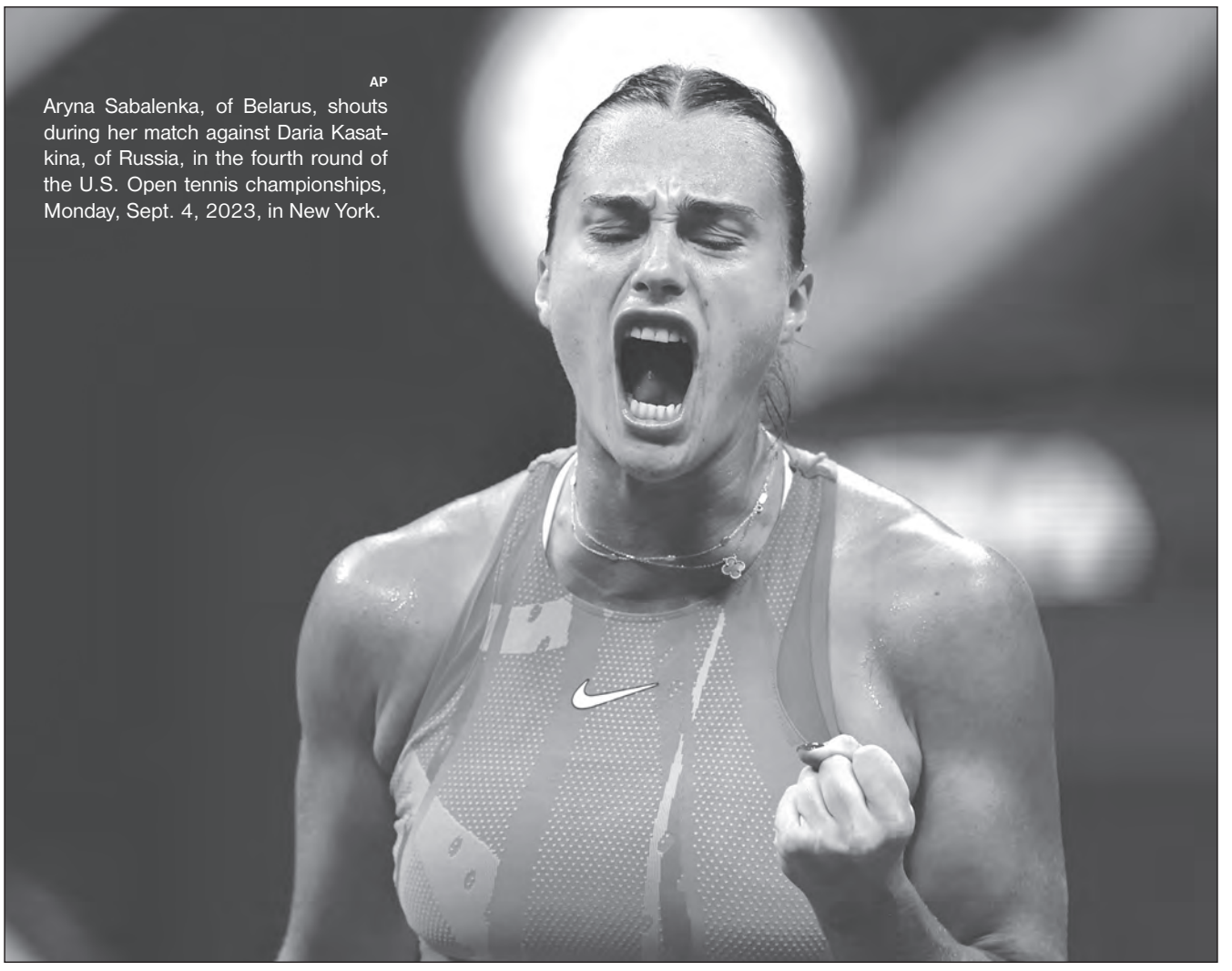
Acts, Anthony, Antonia, Army, Astoria, Ballad, Band, Beat, Because of You, Benedetto, Blue Velvet, Cloud, Crow, Daegal, D'Andrea, Danny, Dean, Dominick, Dreams, Duets, Easy, Frank, Gaga, Good, Heart, Hometown, Jazz, Joanna, John, Lady, Lights, Loved, March, Martin, Moods, Oscar, Patricia, Sandra, San Francisco, Scout, Sinatra, Singer, Solitaire, Susan, Teas, Tour

Yesterday's Answer: Mangrove

The NEW **Wonderword Grand Millennium #1** in LARGE PRINT is now available at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Sabalenka is about to be No. 1 in WTA rankings

» She could be the new US Open champ, too



AP

Aryna Sabalenka, of Belarus, shouts during her match against Daria Kasatkina, of Russia, in the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Monday, Sept. 4, 2023, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)— Aryna Sabalenka is going to be the No. 1 player in the WTA rankings next week, replacing Iga Swiatek there. That much is certain. The way Sabalenka is playing at the moment, she might very well supplant Swiatek as the U.S. Open champion, too.

In Sabalenka's first match since being assured of rising to the top of women's tennis, she showed off the power-based game that allows her to dominate so many opponents, overwhelming No. 13 seed Daria Kasatkina 6-1, 6-3 on Monday night in Arthur Ashe Stadium to advance to her fifth consecutive major quarterfinal.

"All this year, I've been pushing myself so hard to reach this goal," Sabalenka said about getting to No. 1. "It really means a lot for me. It means a lot for my family. It's crazy. It's unbelievable."

After the top-seeded Swiatek lost in the fourth round on Sunday night, No. 3 Jessica Pegula and No. 5 Ons Jabeur — who was the runner-up in New York a year ago — both were defeated Monday. No. 4 Elena Rybakina bowed out last week.

That all left Sabalenka as the only one of the top five women remaining in the bracket.

She will play No. 23 Zheng Qinwen on Wednesday for a spot in the semifinals. The other quarterfinal on the bottom half of the draw will be Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova against No. 17 Madison Keys, the U.S. Open runner-up in 2017.

The quarterfinals on the top half of the women's bracket will be played Tuesday: No. 6 Coco Gauff vs. 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko, and No. 10 Karolina Muchova vs. No. 30 Sorana Cirstea.

Zheng, a 20-year-old from China, was responsible for eliminating Jabeur, who's been sick, by the score of 6-2, 6-3 to reach a Grand Slam quarterfinal for the first time. Keys took care of Pegula 6-1, 6-3, while Vondrousova beat unseeded American Peyton Stearns 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-2.

"I feel this is, like, an important win for me," Zheng said. "I always believe that I'm able to beat everyone if I play the right tennis."

In men's action Monday, defending champion Carlos Alcaraz won in straight sets and will next meet No. 12 Alexander Zverev, who outlasted No. 6-seeded Jannik Sinner 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 in a night match that lasted 4 hours, 41 minutes and ended early Tuesday morning.

A fan was ejected in the fourth set after Zverev complained to the chair umpire that the man used language from Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime. Zverev said after the match the spectator was singing Hitler's anthem.

"I love when fans are loud, I love when fans are emotional," Zverev said. "But I think me being German and not really proud of that history, it's not really a great thing to do and I think him sitting in one of the front rows, I think a lot of people heard it. So if I just don't react, I think it's bad from my side."

The 2021 champion, Danill Medvedev, and No. 8 Andrey Rublev will face off in an all-Russian quarterfinal. Rublev beat Jack Draper 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the afternoon, and Medvedev got past No. 13 Alex de Minaur 2-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 at night.

Sabalenka said she thought she would be distracted against Kasatkina by the rankings news. Sure didn't seem to be one bit.

Sabalenka, who won the Australian Open in January, frequently hits shots with such force, and such little subtlety, that her amount of control can vary. But when she's on, she's tough to counter, and Sabalenka was on-target against Kasatkina, winding up with a 31-7 edge in total winners in a match that lasted just 75 minutes.

"I'm super happy with the performance today," Sabalenka said. "I'm super happy I was able to put her under pressure."

Kasatkina acknowledges that her serve is a weakness and so, not surprisingly, she was in particular trouble in those games. Sabalenka repeatedly would tee off on second serves in the 70s mph, either ripping a clean winner or forcing an error on the other side of the net.

Kasatkina won just one of her eight service games.

Taylor Fritz, Frances Tiafoe, Ben Shelton are putting 'US' in US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—Novak Djokovic gets why male tennis players from the United States are expected to win Grand Slam titles today, the way they did when Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi, John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors were around. And he gets—that's not to say he agrees with—why anything less is not really acceptable to the country's fans.

"Of course, when you are used to champions and No. 1s in the world, Grand Slam winners, anything except that is not a success, right?" Djokovic said. "It's a very high standard (and) criteria for these guys to meet, that you had players that were Top 10, like John Isner, after Andy Roddick. If (Isner) didn't win a Slam, people think it's kind of a failed career, which is something I don't agree with. But again I understand, because America is such a big country in tennis."

Djokovic, a 36-year-old from Serbia with 23 Grand Slam titles, is going to need to beat two men from the host country at the U.S. Open if he is to play in what would be his 10th final at Flushing Meadows next Sunday. That's because he'll face No. 9 seed Taylor Fritz in the quarterfinals on Tuesday, while No. 10 Frances Tiafoe meets unseeded Ben Shelton in the other matchup on the bottom half of the bracket.

Fritz, Tiafoe and Shelton give the United States three American men in the final eight at the U.S. Open since 2005, when Andy Roddick, James Blake and Robby Ginepri did it.

Roddick's title at the 2003 U.S. Open was the last major singles championship for an American man.

While Fritz was in the locker room Sunday, waiting to take the court for his fourth-round match, he kept tabs on TV while Tiafoe — a semifinalist in New York a year ago — and Shelton were picking up their victories.

"It motivated me more," Fritz said, "because I didn't want to be the one to not make it."

Fritz is a 25-year-old from California, Tiafoe is a 25-year-old from Maryland and Shelton is a 20-year-old who won the 2022 NCAA title for the University of Florida.

"It's a really cool opportunity for American tennis. This is what you guys always talk to us about: 'Who's going to be the next Grand Slam champion? Who's going to do it?'" Shelton said at a news conference after eliminating yet another American, Tommy Paul.

"I always have the same reply: American tennis is going in a great direction, and I don't know who's going to be the next to get a Slam, be 'the next Andy Roddick,' but I know we're all on our own path and we're all doing things our own way and improving year to year," Shelton said. "I can see it in these guys. Hopefully see the same kind of trend with myself."

The country's women have enjoyed far more success over the past two decades, thanks largely to the Williams sisters, but there also were recent major trophies earned by Sloane Stephens and Sofia Kenin. Two U.S. women reached the quarterfinals this time: Coco Gauff, a finalist at the 2022 French Open, and Madison Keys, who made it that far at the 2017 U.S. Open.

That was the last year there were a total of five players from the U.S. in the quarterfinals in New York—and back then, four of those five were women (who all reached the semifinals).

Fan ejected after German player said man used language from Hitler's regime

NEW YORK (AP)—A fan was ejected from a U.S. Open tennis match early Tuesday morning after German player Alexander Zverev complained the man used language from Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime.

Zverev, the No. 12 seed, was serving at 2-2 in the fourth set of his match against No. 6 Jannik Sinner when he suddenly went to chair umpire James Keothavong and pointed toward the fan, who was sitting in a section behind the umpire.

"He just said the most famous Hitler phrase there is in this world," Zverev told Keothavong. "It's not acceptable."

Keothavong turned backward and asked the fan to identify himself, then asked fans to be respectful to both players. Then, during the changeover shortly after Zverev held serve, the fan was identified by spectators seated near him, and he was removed by security.

"A disparaging remark was directed toward Alexander Zverev," U.S. Tennis Association spokesman Chris Widmaier said, "The fan was identified and escorted from the stadium."

Zverev said after the match that he's had fans make derogatory comments before, but not involving Hitler.

"He started singing the anthem of Hitler that was back in the day. It was 'Deutschland über alles' and it was a bit too much," Zverev said.

"I think he was getting involved in the match for a long time, though. I don't mind it, I love when fans are loud, I love when fans are emotional. But I think me being German and not really proud of that history, it's not really a great thing to do and I think him sitting in one of the front rows, I think a lot of people heard it. So if I just don't react, I think it's bad from my side."

Zverev went on to drop that set, when he began to struggle with the humid conditions after Sinner had been cramping badly in the third set. But Zverev recovered to win the fifth set, wrapping up the match that lasted 4 hours, 41 minutes at about 1:40 a.m. He will play defending U.S. Open champion Carlos Alcaraz in the quarterfinals.

Zverev said it wasn't hard to move past the fan's remark.

"It's his loss, to be honest, to not witness the final two sets of that match," Zverev said.

Casas knocks in 4 as Red Sox end 13-game skid at Tropicana Field

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Triston Casas homered and drove in four runs, Brayan Bello earned his team-leading 11th win and the Boston Red Sox stopped a 13-game losing streak at Tropicana Field by beating the Tampa Bay Rays 7-3 on Monday.

Wilyer Abreu had a leadoff double before Justin Turner drew a one-out walk in the sixth inning, ending Aaron Civale's day. Chris Devenski (3-4) entered and gave up Casas' three-run shot.

Casas added a run-scoring single and Masataka Yoshida connected on a two-run homer off Andrew Kittredge in the eighth. Casas has three homers and 11 RBIs during a career-best 11-game hitting streak.

Bello (11-8) gave up three runs, all in the first, and five hits over six innings.

Boston closer Kenley Jansen, who pitched the ninth in a nonsave situation, was checked by an athletic trainer with one out but remained in the game.

AP

Boston Red Sox's Masataka Yoshida, center, of Japan, celebrates with Triston Casas, left, after Yoshida hit a two-run home run off Tampa Bay Rays relief pitcher Andrew Kittredge during the eighth inning of a baseball game Monday, Sept. 4, 2023, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

ORIOLES 6, ANGELS 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Gunnar Henderson hit a three-run homer and Grayson Rodriguez pitched six solid innings in Baltimore's 12th victory in 16 games.

Austin Hays, Ryan Mountcastle and Aaron Hicks drove in runs in the third inning for the AL-leading Orioles, who have won three of four to open their nine-game trip. Rodriguez (5-3) struck out seven and allowed seven hits while improving to 3-0 in his last five starts, going at least six innings every time.

Kenny Rosenberg (0-1) pitched six innings of seven-hit ball in his second major league start for the Angels, who have lost four straight and 23 of 31 since they were five games above .500 at the trade deadline.

Yennier Cano pitched the ninth for his sixth save. He got help from second baseman Jordan Westburg, who sprinted deep into center field and made a stunning catch on Logan O'Hoppe's popup with his back to the plate.

Angels rookie Nolan Schanuel reached base in his 13th consecutive game to begin his major league career when the 2023 draftee drew a leadoff walk.

REDS 6, MARINERS 3

CINCINNATI (AP)—Spencer Steer hit a three-run home run to help Cincinnati beat Seattle in an interleague matchup of playoff contenders.

The Reds began the day in a four-way tie for the third NL wild-card spot, and the AL-west leading Mariners are 39-18 since July 1 for the best record in the major leagues in that span.

With their pitching staff hit hard by COVID-19 and injuries, the Reds used seven pitchers on Monday. Lucas Sims (5-3) got the last out of the seventh to pick up the win and Ian Gibaut got the last out of the ninth to get his second save.

Mariners starter Bryan Woo (2-4) allowed five runs, hit three batters and walked three in five innings. He did not record a strikeout.

PIRATES 4, BREWERS 2

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Ke'Bryan Hayes homered and tripled, Jack Suwinski drilled his 23rd home run and Pittsburgh won for the sixth time in seven games.

Luis Ortiz (4-4) recovered from an early bout of wildness to send the NL Central-leading Brewers to a second straight loss.

Ortiz gave up two runs in the second, when he loaded the bases with no outs on two walks and a hit batter. The Brewers scratched across a pair of runs on sacrifice flies, but Ortiz settled down from there to win his second consecutive start. David Bednar worked the ninth for his 32nd save.

Suwinski's two-run homer in the fourth off Corbin Burnes (9-8) tied the game. Hayes put the Pirates in front with a shot to left-center that just cleared the wall next to the 410-foot sign with two outs in the fifth. Bryan Reynolds followed with a double and scored when Andrew McCutchen doubled down the left-field line.

McCutchen doubled twice for Pittsburgh but remained stuck on 299 career home runs. The five-time All-Star exited in the bottom of the fifth with left Achilles tightness.

ASTROS 13, RANGERS 6

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Mauricio Dubón and Jose Altuve twice hit back-to-back home runs, rookie catcher Yainer Diaz had a three-run shot to cap Houston's big seventh inning, and the Astros pulled within a percentage point of first-place Seattle.

The Astros went ahead to stay with a six-run seventh, which began with them loading the bases on a walk and two singles off reliever Josh Sborz (5-7). José Abreu walked to force in the run that made it 6-5.

All-Star shortstop Corey Seager, who homered twice for Texas, then misplayed a grounder for an error that allowed two more runs to score before Diaz hit his 21st homer of the season.

There were nine home runs in all, a single-game record at Globe Life Field, which opened in 2020.

Rafael Montero (3-3), the second of six Houston pitchers, worked a perfect sixth.

PHILLIES 9, PADRES 7

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Kyle Schwarber hit another long home run at Petco Park and Trea Turner and Edmundo Sosa also connected for Philadelphia, which won its first visit to San Diego since the NL Championship Series.

Philadelphia denied the Padres their first four-game winning streak this season. The wildly inconsistent Padres, who have badly underperformed despite having baseball's third-highest payroll, remain the only team in the majors without a winning streak longer than three games.

Taijuan Walker (15-5) became the first Phillies pitcher to win at least 15 games since Aaron Nola won 17 in 2018. Walker allowed four runs and five hits, including a solo home run by Fernando Tatis Jr. into the second deck in left in the first inning, his 22nd.

José Alvarado pitched the ninth for his seventh save in nine chances. He walked the first two batters before retiring the side. He punched the air with his left arm after striking out Ha-Seong Kim to end it.

Rich Hill (7-14) allowed six runs and seven hits in 1 1/3 innings, his shortest start with the Padres.

BLUE JAYS 6, ATHLETICS 5, 10 INNINGS

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Pinch-hitter Santiago Espinal hit a tiebreaking double in Toronto's three-run 10th inning on the first pitch thrown by Francisco Pérez, and the Blue Jays held on to beat Oakland.

The A's made it interesting when Lawrence Butler hit his second home run of the game with a two-run drive against winner Jordan Romano (5-5).

Cavan Biggio added an RBI single in the 10th as insurance for the Blue Jays, who are 3-1 so far on their six-game West Coast road trip. That chased Pérez (1-2) and Spencer Horwitz added an RBI double.

Esteury Ruiz stole his AL-leading 55th and 56th bases in the ninth to put the go-ahead run on third but the A's couldn't bring him home.

CUBS 5, GIANTS 0

CHICAGO (AP)—Justin Steele (16-3) tossed dominant two-hit ball through eight innings to move into a tie for the major league lead in wins, blanking San Francisco.

Seiya Suzuki hit a 432-foot solo shot off Giants starter Logan Webb (9-12) in the second, then drove in Chicago's second run with a line double to the right-center wall in the seventh.

After allowing a solid line single to Casey Schmitt with two outs in the second, Steele retired 16 straight until walking J.D. Davis to start the eighth. Davis was erased on a double play before Paul DeJong singled for San Francisco's second hit.

José Cuas pitched a 1-2-3 ninth to seal the win.

Webb allowed three runs on five hits and walked one through 6 2/3 innings as San Francisco lost its fourth straight.

TWINS 20, GUARDIANS 6

CLEVELAND (AP)—Royce Lewis had a grand slam and a career-high six RBIs, and Jorge Polanco and Carlos Correa added solo homers off Lucas Giolito in his Cleveland debut as the AL Central-leading Minnesota has won three of its last four games.

Kyle Farmer hit a three-run homer, and Joey Gallo and Matt Wallner each had two-run shots off catcher David Fry, who pitched the final four innings and allowed seven runs and 10 hits. Minnesota led 18-1 in the middle of the seventh.

Giolito (7-12), claimed off waivers from the Angels on Aug. 31, gave up a career high-tying nine runs in three innings. The right-hander is 1-7 with a 7.22 ERA in his last 11 starts, which include outings with the White Sox, Los Angeles and Cleveland.

Minnesota starter Pablo López (10-7) went six innings, allowing one run on an RBI triple by José Ramírez. The right-hander struck out three, putting him eight behind Toronto's Kevin Gausman (207) for the AL lead.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, ROCKIES 2

PHOENIX (AP)—Merrill Kelly matched a career high with 12 strikeouts in seven dominating innings, Jace Peterson hit a two-run double and Arizona beat Colorado.

Kelly (11-6) bounced back from a rare shaky start, filling the afternoon with whiffs and weak contact while allowing a run and four hits. The right-hander started to warm up for the eighth inning before leaving with what appeared to be cramps for the second time in three starts.

Paul Sewald gave up a run-scoring double to Elias Diaz in the ninth before closing out his 30th save in 35 chances. Arizona remains three games behind the Chicago Cubs for the second NL wild-card spot.

The Diamondbacks needed one time through the batting order to get to Peter Lambert (3-6), who gave up all four runs and six hits while striking out five in six innings.

ROYALS 12, WHITE SOX 1

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Cole Ragans continued his recent success with six scoreless innings as Kansas City trounced Chicago in the first of a three-game series.

The American League Pitcher of the Month for August, Ragans (6-4) retired the first 13 batters he faced and finished with just one hit allowed. He struck out seven and didn't walk anyone. He now has a 21-inning scoreless streak.

Edward Olivares was 3-for-4 with a pair of home runs. Every Royals starter except for Salvador Perez had at least one hit, and Perez had an RBI.

Jesse Scholtens (1-7) took the loss after allowing five runs on nine hits in 3 2/3 innings.

FROM THE MOUTHS OF SAIPAN HOOPS FANS

USA the clear favorite for FIBA Basketball World Cup

The 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup is heading into the quarterfinals with the Elite 8 set and we've asked local basketball fans are rooting for.

The clear favorite: USA—what with the strategic coaching of Steve Kerr and Erik Spoelstra—along with the cutthroat energy of NBA superstars Anthony Edwards and Austin Reeves, the allegiance is strong to the red, white, and blue.

However, not everyone is rooting for the USA and *Saipan Tribune* actually had the opportunity to interview a FIBA representative and basketball Olympian who is on island for basketball workshops and clinics. Take a look at these basketball die-hards picks below.

■■■

"To be honest, I can't pick one. I think that the teams that are going to make it to the finals—it's going to be the best team that wins. It's great to see the favorites not being the favorites—to have underdogs coming in. I'm all about that and it's good to see some teams that have not been in the finals for many years being there. So, I don't have a favorite. I'm not going to pick anyone. I just want to see great basketball."

—Annie La Fleur, FIBA Oceania National Federation and Sport Development manager

Aranda

Dalire

Gross

Le Fleur

Lee

Maratita

Mercado

Sugatan

"Well, I was rooting for the [Philippines], unfortunately they got eliminated early in the tournament so I'm going with the USA. They got a lot of young talent on the roster. They lost yesterday (Sunday) but I believe they still can win it all with the coaching staff of [Steve] Kerr and [Erik] Spoelstra."

—Jack Aranda, NMI Senior National Basketball Team captain

"USA is probably the favorite but I kind of want an underdog to take it so I'll go for Lithuania for another upset and prove to the world that their first win against the USA wasn't by luck!"

—James Lee, Northern Marianas Basketball Federation president

"I'm going for Team USA. They have a young core of players that are eager to win and represent the USA. Hoping Team USA will be able to bounce back from their first loss against Lithuania."

—Jonathan Sugatan, Hopwood Middle School basketball coach

"Slovenia because of Luka Doncic. For me, he's the next face of the NBA once Lebron retires."

—Deiron Dalire, Everest Kitchen

"USA! After the loss to Lithuania, I believe they'll bounce back big time!"

—Nick Gross, CNMI PSS Athletics Program director

"USA because they're our favorite basketball stars—they're who we follow in the NBA. Even though they lost one, it's [great] watching some of our favorite players that the kids are watching now like Austin Reeves and Anthony Edwards."

—Mike Mercado, Saipan Southern High School Health and Physical Education teacher and basketball coach

"USA. I love the coaching staff—Steve Kerr, Erik Spoelstra—the whole USA coaching basketball program has really changed to adapt to the new ways of how these players are playing this game. It's great to watch and coming from the CNMI and what our forefathers fought for to be a part of the American family, we should always root for the United States of America.

—Jake Maratita, head coach for NMI Junior National Basketball Team

NMI

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and Yao Ming—all of whom are over seven feet.

The one-day congress and one-day workshop was on Safeguarding and Integrity, Innovation on Equipment, and Women in Basketball.

Lee said that the information presented was "all very insightful that will help with our continuous growth in basketball, both at the national level as well as for our community."

On Day 3, Lee attended the opening of the 2023 FIBA World Cup at the Philippine Arena in Bulacan, Philippines. He also had the opportunity to watch both opening games between Angola and Italy and the Dominican Republic versus the Philippines.

He said that both games were a battle to the end and that he enjoyed watching both but enjoyed more on the second game rooting for the Philippines although they lost.

Overall, Lee said, "it was a great experience for myself and I did my very best to promote our island and had invited everyone that I had met to bring their team down for a goodwill basketball game or even just to visit."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI was represented for the first time in the 2023 edition of the FIBA Congress from Aug. 23 to 26, 2023 in Manila, Philippines by Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee, third from left. Here, he joins FIBA Oceania delegations for a group photo.

HEE

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No. 3 was Tony Satur at 9 feet; hole No. 9 was Chris Groves at a mere 18 inches; hole No. 13 was Satur again at 6 feet and 58 inches; and hole No. 17 was Hyun Son at 10 feet.

The most accurate for hole No. 4 was Chris Nelson at 43 inches; and the most aggressive in hole No. 12 was Bryan Camacho at 21 feet and seven inches.

Martin Duenas, chairman of the golf committee and Marianas Visitors Authority community projects manager, said that there were about 100 players in the tournament. He was thankful that the weather cooperated or they would've postponed the event.

He said, "We got really good weather. It was gonna rain a little around 12 o'clock based on the forecast and it did… so thanks to the very nice weather, we were able to complete the event. We were really kind of worried earlier this week because the weather wasn't looking good… but as a committee we were able to comfort each other and provide some confidence to give the green light for today and we were right. It was a good call and everything turned out well."

Proceeds of the tournament will go to the education work of the non-profit organization Marianas Tourism Education Council, which focuses on community outreach and school tourism MY WAVE Clubs. MTEC marks its 22nd anniversary this year.

Duenas added, "We want to thank the sponsors—I know times are hard—especially cash sponsorship, so we really appreciate their help. This is going towards a good cause which is to educate our youth early on on the importance of tourism—which is basically everyone's business."

The sponsors of the event were LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Joeten Motors, Triple J, IT&E, Top Shelf Wine/Spirits Saipan, Bank of Guam, Bridge Capital LLC., RNV Construction, Island Training Solutions, Hawaiian Rock Products, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, 103.9 KZMI, MarPac, Tinian Diamond, KSPN2, Magic 100FM, Joeten Superstore, *Marianas Variety,* Saipan Advertising, Saipan Shipping Co., Century Insurance, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Power 99, WESTCO, KKMP, JG Sablan Ice & Water Inc., Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Mobil, Coral Ocean Resort Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Pacific Islands Club, D&Q, Pizza Hut, Wushin Gas, HANMI, 3HiRes, I Love Saipan, Godfather's, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Saipan Ice & Water Co., Napu Brewing Co., and Skydive Saipan.

LA

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gic plan in place. They've got some ideas and goals and what they're trying to do is to help increase the participation in the country for basketball—but also lift the standard of their coaches, their referees and then eventually, their players.

Nick Gross, CNMI PSS Athletics Program director, said at the end of the workshop, "On behalf of the Public School System, thank you very much for taking the trip. To the federation, thank you for the continued partnership for the sport. It's been fantastic. This is obviously the very tip of the iceberg in the sense of coaching and getting a feel for some different ideas to assist you in coaching."

Jonathan Sugatan, Hopwood Middle School basketball coach who attended the coach's workshop, said that it gave them a better idea how they should coach students depending on their age groups.

"We're the starting point for making the younger generation interested and making them want to come back and progress in whichever sport they wish to pursue," Sugatan said.

As for James Lee, NMIBF president, he said he's loved collaborating with PSS. "I thank Nick [Gross] for the willingness to link in with us. It's the grassroots area for the growth of the sport and if we don't work closely hand-in-hand with PSS, we won't be able to accomplish our goals at the competition level," he said. "We are grateful that the former [Education] commissioner [Alfred] Ada agreed to it and Nick worked on it, so I'm really glad to see a lot of the educators came out to be part of this."

The coaching workshops are set to continue today and tomorrow from 5pm to 8:30pm; another referee workshop is from Friday, Sept. 8 at 5pm to 8:30pm, and Saturday, Sept. 9 from 9am to 12pm.

After the coaching workshop yesterday, La Fleur hosted a clinic with the junior national girls program from 6pm to 7:30pm; a clinic is set for U14 girls on Saturday, 1:30pm to 3pm; junior national girls program clinic is from 3:30pm to 5pm; and the women's open clinic is from 5:30pm to 7pm.

LEIGH GASES

Group photo of CNMI Public School System coaches and physical education teachers with FIBA Oceania National Federation and Sport Development manager Annie La Fleur, front row, third from left after their coach workshop at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium yesterday.

Sabalenka is about to be No. 1 in WTA rankings.

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Sports

USA the clear favorite for FIBA Basketball World Cup.

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NMI represented in its first FIBA Congress

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

At the cusp of the 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup, James Lee represented NMI for the first time in the 2023 edition of the FIBA Congress in Manila, Philippines from Aug. 23 to 26, 2023.

Out of 212 national federations, 198 attended the congress.

Lee, Northern Marianas Basketball Federation president, said, "It was definitely an honor to represent NMI [and] more so to introduce our home to the rest of the world."

While there, Lee had the opportunity to meet many other national federation representatives around the world, along with the previous FIBA president Hamane Niang and newly elected FIBA president Sheikh Saud Ali Al Thani.

Lee—a huge basketball fan, met—and at about 6 feet himself, was dwarfed by several former NBA superstars Dirk Nowitzki, Gheorghe Muresan,

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation president James Lee, left, takes a selfie with former NBA superstar Dirk Nowitzki during the 2023 FIBA Congress in Manila, Philippines last Aug. 23.

Hee tops Ladies Flight; great turnout for MTEC Golf Classic

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Yoo Young Hee topped the Ladies Flight of the 2023 Marianas Tourism Education Council Golf Classic last Saturday morning in the greens of the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

With a gross score of 79, Hee took first place, followed by second place Yuko Togawa's score of 81. Zhi Min Jin also had a gross score of 81 and settled for third place after losing on a tiebreak.

Hee's front nine total was 45, while her back nine total was 39.

Through Jin, Hee said in an interview that the weather was perfect throughout her game. She said that her best holes were No. 6 and No. 18—as she hit birdies—while her worst hole was No. 17.

As for the competition, Hee said that it was good. She added that the chemistry within her group was good and she had fun playing.

Closest to the pin in hole

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LEIGH GASES
From left, second place in the Ladies Flight Yuko Togawa, champion Yoo Young Hee, and second place Zhi Min Jin pose with Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente during the awards ceremony of the 2023 MTEC Golf Classic at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort last Saturday.

La Fleur plants seeds for NMI hoops to flourish

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

LEIGH GASES
FIBA Oceania National Federation and Sport Development manager Annie La Fleur, back, gestures during a drill with CNMI Public School System coaches and Physical Education teachers during their coaching workshop at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium yesterday.

Basketball has always been a staple in CNMI's sporting world, but it's getting a boost in all aspects of coaching, refereeing, and gameplay from FIBA Oceania National Federation and Sport Development manager Annie La Fleur, who is here for a week planting the seeds for basketball's continuous flourish in the CNMI.

La Fleur just wrapped up a referee workshop for Northern Marianas Basketball Federation officials last Sunday and has taught Public School System coaches during their Statewide Professional Development with a coaching workshop yesterday—all done at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

After yesterday's coaching session with not only basketball coaches but other school sports coaches and physical education teachers as well, La Fleur said that they went over the fundamentals, what is technique centered teaching, and game-based teaching.

"It's about providing an opportunity for players to be successful," she said. But that "It's great to teach the fundamentals but then how do you put it into the game like setting for them to be successful in a game because at the end of the day, we're trying to prepare our players to be successful on the court," she said.

La Fleur said that she came to assist as much as she could, but she will leave again, so "we want to provide that build capacity, but also the sustainability of programs. By working with educators in the country and upskilling them to continue to deliver, I think that is the priority for us."

She added that with the recently concluded coach's and referee's workshops "the enthusiasm and the willing[ness] to learn and to try and make change—I think is really shown and it's very valuable."

When asked—as a coach's coach—what her favorite thing is about it, to which she said that it was helping facilitate change. "If you're always doing the same thing and getting the same outcomes, I think we would want to make change. And from what I've seen, the questions that I've had, it shows that they do want to adjust things slightly, make some additions, take some things away… because it's the players that we're trying to really help."

With that, she said the hardest thing about it is if people don't want to make changes. "If you don't want to make changes, you're always going to do the same thing," she said. "And I think the federation has really shown that they've got a strate-

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